

STAMP & COIN MART

August 2015 www.stampandcoin.co.uk



End of the **LINE** ENGRAVED

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back on the 1840 classics

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Your guide to *coins of the* **Napoleonic Wars**



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By Andrew McGavin, Managing Director, Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA)

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In '*plain talk*' – most auctions charge 'Buyer's Premiums' – YES! You have to pay up to **25%** (some charge more) on top of the winning price you paid. That is Simply an Incredible surcharge. Apparently this significant premium is justified by charging the seller a lower fee in order to entice consignments for sale.

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1. Our Business Model is Different. Fundamentally I believe that if a stamp/philatelic item is not selling then it is too expensive. Compare that with the stamp business whose stock is the same each time you see or hear from them. At the risk of boring you ...

2. Stamp Industry's BIGGEST problem. ... twenty years ago I started to ponder upon what is the biggest problem faced by the average stamp dealer? The answer came back loud and clear. The biggest problem faced by a stamp dealer is not what sells ... but **what does not sell**. This is the reason why most stamp dealers have lots of unsold stock you have seen time and time again – worse still this is what prevents that dealer from buying new stock to offer you.

3. Surface Sell. There is an actual name for this – it is called 'surface sell' – good material 'floats' on the surface and sells. Less desirable stock sinks so that unless a dealer pays almost nothing to replace his stock then the profit in the business becomes stagnant and bound

in less saleable stock. If only that dealer could move this stock he would have more money to invest in new stock to offer to you.

4. Cover-up. Twenty years ago almost the entire stamp industry spent its time disguising what did not sell – in those days so pernicious were 'unsolds' that it was common practice for one auction house to sell batches of 'unsolds' to another auction where the new auction could present them to (hopefully) different collectors as new lots. 'Passing the Philatelic Parcel' was common practice.

5. E-Bay. Today the philatelic world is almost unrecognisably different. In large part courtesy of the internet. How things have changed. Few 'pass the parcel'. Really active Dealers - these days they **also** sell on eBay - large lots, small lots, all manner of stamps, covers, down to fakes and forgeries – today's equivalent of the Wild West – there's philatelic 'gold' to be mined in those hills ... but Boy – you have to work to find it and sadly 'all that glistens is not gold' – you pay your money and you take your chance often with little support or recourse. UPA too sells surpluses on eBay backed by support and our guarantee – access eBay links via www.upastampauctions.co.uk

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WELCOME

It's proving to be quite a year for anniversaries. We've already marked the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo – we hoped you liked the free medal in last month's issue – and the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, and this month we're looking back 75 years to the Battle of Britain, the aerial fight above British skies which prompted an emotional Winston Churchill to exclaim: 'Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few.'

This month's free stamps were issued by the British Indian Ocean Territory and recall some of the notable figures involved in the Battle of Britain, as detailed on page 9. Exactly who should be honoured on postage stamps is often the subject of heated debate, but we can all agree that the 'few' depicted on the stamps all deserve to be there. Royal Mail have paid their own tribute this month too, with a set of Battle of Britain stamps, previewed on page 32. It is, of course, a rather obvious reason for a new set of stamps but, once again, you cannot argue with the subject matter and the importance of remembering the events of 75 years ago.

If the free stamps weren't enough we're also giving you a free London 2015 postcard with this issue. The organisers of the recent stamp exhibition kindly donated the limited edition postcards to thank us for our support of the hugely successful event. Over the past two years the organisers distributed limited numbers of fifteen different postcards at various stamp events, each card recalling a previous British philatelic exhibition. We're also giving you the chance to claim a free set of all fifteen postcards, worth £20 and in limited numbers, with our latest subscription offer, see page 56 for details.



Your free postcard is courtesy of the London 2015 organisers and is part of a set of fifteen cards recalling British philatelic exhibitions

Matt Hill, Editor
matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk

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MEET THE EXPERTS...



John Tingey has collected stamps on and off for almost fifty years with a strong interest in old GB but also a few distractions into postcards, postal history and a handful of 'dead' Commonwealth countries. He is passionate about the postal antics of W. Reginald Bray, principally his postal curios and autographs, as described on page 67.



John Apfelbaum has spent a lifetime learning about stamps and stamp collecting. He runs the US-based firm of stamp professionals Earl PL Apfelbaum. John suggests collecting the stamps of the 'Canal Zone' in his regular 'World View' column on page 20.



The Fitzwilliam Museum's Richard Kelleher has a background in field archaeology and has studied the history of coins for many years. He writes our exclusive monthly series on the British Museum's renowned coin collection, see page 104.

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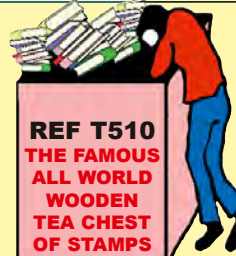
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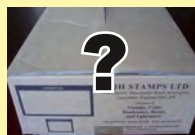
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To celebrate Royal Mail's fifty stamps post box promotion, we're inviting you to send in photos of your local post box featuring one of the special stamp plaques. Why not pose next to the post box to add a personal touch, perhaps holding your latest copy of *Stamp & Coin Mart*? One winner will be picked at random from the entries and will receive a Royal Mail 2015 Year Book, featuring an array of stamps issued during the year.

To enter, simply e-mail your photograph to: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk or send it to us at: *Stamp & Coin Mart* Postbox Photo Competition (Code SCM2076), Warners Group Publications, Fifth Floor, 31-32 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 5JD. Closing date: 11 September, 2015. Winner will be picked at random from entries. Photograph must show post box featuring Royal Mail's special stamp plaque. Editor's decision is final.



We found the Leeds post box, showing a London 2012 Olympics stamp, just a short walk from the *Stamp & Coin Mart* office!

Stamps to feature on UK post boxes

As part of the celebrations to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Britain's Special Stamp programme, Royal Mail has installed fifty plaques with images of some of the most popular stamps on fifty post boxes across the country.

Each of the fifty post boxes is located in one of the UK's cities, towns or villages that has a special connection with the featured stamp. The post boxes will feature a variety of stamps including Winston Churchill, Bagpuss, Dylan Thomas, Robert Burns, the Giant's Causeway, York Minster and Sherlock Holmes. They will feature in various towns across the UK ranging from London to Llandudno, Belfast to Blackpool, Leeds to Leicester and Edinburgh to Exeter. For a full list of the post boxes featuring stamp plaques visit our website at: stamp.cm/rm-postboxes

Andrew Hammond, Director Stamps & Collectibles, Royal Mail, said: 'The UK's towns and cities have influenced stamp designs over the past fifty years. At the same time, our iconic red post boxes have formed memorable landmarks across the country since 1852. We are delighted to bring the two together, creating new points of interest around the UK in celebration of our stamps heritage.'

The first fifty years of Royal Mail's Special Stamp programme has featured a total of 2,663 stamps, beginning in 1965 with the stamps celebrating the life of Sir Winston Churchill. Earlier this year Royal Mail launched a new website featuring all of the stamps, allowing users to search by year; you can visit the site at: rmspecialstamps.com

Your FREE Battle of Britain stamps and London 2015 postcard

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Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding, who played a crucial role in Britain's defence during the aerial assault on Britain during the summer and autumn of 1940. Other figures honoured on the stamps include celebrated fighter pilot Bob Stanford-Tuck

who was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for 'leadership, courage and skill'.

Read more about stamps recalling the Second World War on pages 32 and 76.

This issue also brings you a free, limited edition London 2015 postcard, courtesy of the organisers of the stamp exhibition which took place in May (read the full show report in the July 2015 issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*).

The postcard is one of fifteen special postcards produced in the lead-up to the event. 'As 2015 will be a significant anniversary for London exhibitions, we decided to commemorate these shows, past and present, by issuing a set of fifteen cards, one for each of the London shows up to 2015,' a spokesperson said. 'The cards feature an interesting piece of memorabilia from each show on the front, and a picture of the exhibition medal with a brief description of the show on the reverse.'

While the cards were distributed at a variety of philatelic events before the show, a limited number of full sets of the cards are still available and you can claim your free set with this month's subscription offer. Join *Stamp & Coin Mart* and we'll send you a full set of postcards, usually worth £20, and a London 2015 pin badge! See page 56 for full details.

As we mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, we're pleased to include free stamps honouring some of the 'Aces and Leaders' involved in the famous aerial battle that took place during the Second World War.

The British Indian Ocean Territories stamps were originally issued in 2010 to mark the seventieth anniversary of the battle and now serve as a poignant reminder of those involved.

Those honoured on the stamps include

In brief

Magyar Posta, the Hungarian post office, have issued a stamp to mark the Women's Basketball European Championship with a design featuring a high-heel shoe beside a basketball trainer. Hungary and Romania jointly hosted the 35th European Women's Basketball Championship between 11 and 28 June.

They may have lost the Champions League Final to Barcelona in June, but the achievements of Italian football club Juventus are still being celebrated on a recently issued San Marino stamp after the side won the Italian league. The €2 value shows the club's familiar black and white striped crest.



Chinese stamp collectors recently queued to purchase China's two Disney stamps, which feature an image of Mickey Mouse and an outline of the famous rodent's head featuring Chinese patterns. According to the website CNTV.com 'The first person in line arrived twelve hours before the stands opened.'

Staffordshire University student Sean Sargeant has created a stamp-shaped mural, using ceramics, featuring a profile portrait of Arnold Machin, the sculptor responsible for the familiar effigy of the Queen used on Britain's definitive stamps. Sean said: 'Most people probably aren't aware that Arnold Machin came from Stoke. I really wanted to celebrate the back story and heritage of the local area.'



Emirates Post Group, based in the United Arab Emirates, recently issued a set of stamps 'to celebrate the role played by women in the growth of the nation'.

Organiser needed for Kidstamps

'The Stamp Active Network urgently needs more help,' says Chairman John Davies following the news that the long-running organisers of the Kidstamps free postal club, Maureen and Tim Cory, have had to stand down.

'Without a new administrator, there is a danger that the free postal club for children may have to close,' John explained. 'The work involves preparing the gift packs of stamps and first day covers for the children and sending them out about four times a year to the members of Kidstamps using SAEs supplied by the children. There are about 250 new members every year.'

Speaking to *Stamp & Coin Mart*, Maureen Cory said: 'Tim and I would like to send a big thank you to all those who have supported us over the past eight years. We decided to step down from the running of Kidstamps stamp club in the spring to finally enjoy our retirement. It would have been impossible to run such a successful club without the help and encouragement of a number of philatelists who not only sent us endless donations of philatelic material, but were very supportive.'

If you feel you could help, please contact the Chairman of the Stamp Active Network, John Davies on e-mail: davies1890@btinternet.com; tel: 01295 255831. Find out more about the Stamp Active Network at the website: www.stampactive.co.uk



The Kidstamps postal club provides young people with a starter pack of stamps and accessories, and a series of free stamps to encourage them to collect. Can you help run the club?

Sweden and USA honour Bergman

The US Postal Service (USPS) and Posten AB of Sweden have announced that actress Ingrid Bergman will be honoured on a joint issue from both countries.

Part of the USA's 'Legends of Hollywood' series, the stamp will be issued jointly by the Postal Service and Sweden Post and go on sale on 20 August. The stamp art features a c. 1940 image of Bergman taken by Laszlo Willinger, known for his portraits of celebrities. Artist Kristen Monthei digitally 'colourised the image' for the USA stamp, while the 14 KR Swedish stamp features an illustrated version of the same photograph.

A spokesperson for the USPS said: 'Bergman lit up the silver screen for decades, starring in a variety of European and American films. She won three Academy Awards, two Emmy Awards, and the Tony Award for best actress. She is best remembered for her timeless portrayals of Ilsa Lund in *Casablanca* (1942); Paula Alquist in *Gaslight* (1944); Anna Koreff in *Anastasia* (1956); and Alicia Huberman in *Notorious* (1946).'

Bergman was born in Stockholm in 1915 and became a film star in Sweden before moving to America in the 1930s where she found worldwide fame. The actress appeared on a Gibraltar 'Century of Cinema' stamp in 1995. Bergman died in London in 1982 at the age of 67.

Bergman joins Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart, Alfred Hitchcock, John Wayne, Judy Garland, Audrey Hepburn and Bette Davis, among many others, with a Legends of Hollywood stamp in her honour.



Shoe designer Stuart Weitzman revealed as owner of British Guiana 1¢ Magenta

The owner of the world's most expensive stamp, the British Guiana 1c Magenta, has been revealed as American shoe designer and tycoon Stuart Weitzman.

The famous stamp has recently gone on display at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC, prompting the



Stuart Weitzman told the *New York Times*: 'I had an album, an American album but of world-famous international stamps, and there was a big hole on the top of the page for the British Guiana'

owner of the rarity to reveal his identity. Stuart Weitzman, aged 73 and a renowned shoe designer and philanthropist, purchased the stamp at auction in June 2014 and agreed to loan the stamp to the museum. According to the curators at the US museum, Weitzman selected the National Postal Museum as the venue for its display after considering several of the world's most prominent philatelic museums.

'There was an unfilled square in my childhood stamp album, which I was sure would never be filled,' said Weitzman. 'One should never say "never," and now after so many years in hiding, I felt it most appropriate to give stamp lovers and others the best opportunity to see this gem; and there is no better place than the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.'

The stamp came back on to the market following the death of John E du Pont, who had bought the stamp in 1980 and was later imprisoned for third-degree murder. The last time the stamp was displayed publicly was in the 1970s when the stamp was owned by Frederick T Small, an Australian living in Florida. Director of the museum Allen Kane said: 'The British Guiana is the rarest of the rare. Having recently sold for almost \$10 million, by sheer size and weight, it may very well be the most valuable single object in the world today.'

In an article in the *New York Times* it



Weitzman bought the famous stamp anonymously in June 2014 but has now revealed himself as the owner

was revealed that Weitzman began stamp collecting in his childhood when a broken leg meant he had to finish the school year at home. The article also revealed that the shoe designer now owns the plate block of four 'Inverted Jenny' 1918 24c stamps, one of the most famous US stamp rarities.

The unique stamp will be on view at the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery in the Washington DC museum until November 2017, the longest period the stamp has ever been publicly displayed.

Read '10 little known facts about the world's most expensive stamp' on the *Stamp & Coin Mart* website: <http://stamp.cm/british-guiana>

New Chair to deliver The Postal Museum

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) has announced the appointment of Rick Wills as its new Chair of Trustees.

From August, Mr Wills will succeed Dr Helen Forde, who held the position of Chair since 2011 and been a trustee since the organisation was founded in 2004, overseeing its rapid growth and the development of the forthcoming Postal Museum.

Rick Wills has fronted a number of companies primarily in the service industry, including British Airways, Thomson Travel and eight years as chairman of the BA London Eye Company. He has held a number of chair, trustee and non-executive director roles both in the commercial and charity sectors, including for the National Trust, Alexandra Palace and the Prince's Foundation for

Children and the Arts.

Since 2011, the BPMA has been working towards opening a new, major attraction in The Postal Museum and Mail Rail, as detailed in the exclusive BPMA update in every issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* – see page 17.

Mr Wills said: 'I am extremely delighted to be joining the team at the BPMA. This is an incredibly important project and I know we will all put a huge amount of effort in to ensure we achieve a successful implementation. The result will be a destination we will all be proud of for years to come.'

Adrian Steel, Director, the BPMA, said: 'Rick was chosen from a field of high calibre candidates. He brings a wealth of relevant experience and is clearly committed to the successful delivery of this exciting project.'



Rick Wills has previously worked for companies including British Airways, Thomson Travel and the BA London Eye Company

'Queen of Gibraltar' wording used on new stamps

The Post Office of Gibraltar has made history with the first ever postage stamp to feature the words 'Queen of Gibraltar'.

The £10 stamp – the denomination is also a first for Gibraltar Post Office – was issued on 30 May in anticipation of 9 September, 2015, the date that the Queen will break Queen

Victoria's record as the longest serving monarch of Britain. Victoria reigned for 63 years and 216 days, from 20 June, 1837 to 22 January, 1901, whilst the present Queen's reign began on 6 February, 1952.

The new stamp features a Sir Cecil Beaton photograph of the Queen taken in 1955, which features the monarch seated on a golden throne. The stamp is printed with 22ct Gold and features the words '£10. Queen of Gibraltar'.

For more information visit the website: www.gibraltar-stamps.com



The stamp is also the first £10 value for Gibraltar

Postcrossing website perfect for collectors

The *Stamp & Coin Mart* team excitedly sent off our first postcard recently after joining up to the worldwide 'Postcrossing' website. We're hoping our involvement in the fun worldwide postcard exchange will bring us some interesting stamps from around the world in the coming months and we'll keep you updated.

The Postcrossing project is an online platform that allows anyone to exchange postcards from all over the world, for free. The project started in 2005, when Portuguese computer engineer and postcard lover, Paulo Magalhães, thought it would be a good idea to connect people who share the love for sending and receiving postcards. Ten years on, the Postcrossing world is very lively – 30 million postcards sent and counting – giving postcard and stamp collectors the chance to share.

The system is simple enough: request an address from the website, post the postcard to the address, wait to receive a postcard from another random member, and register the received postcard in the system. Find out more at www.postcrossing.com and watch this space for postcards and stamps we receive from around the world!



Local society produce Battle of Evesham cover

Evesham and District Philatelic Society is marking the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Evesham with a commemorative cover, the first collectable to be produced by the small group of collectors.

The famous battle, which took place in 1265, saw Simon de Montfort, the sixth earl of Leicester killed by the forces of King Henry III. De Montfort is considered to be the founder of our modern parliament, as noted on two British stamps issued in 1965 and on one of the values in the recent Magna Carta set. The new, limited edition cover features the two 1965 stamps with a 'POSTED ON THE BATTLEFIELD' cancel, and an English lion 1st Class definitive.

'Having lived in the Evesham area for forty-plus years and seen all the references to Simon de Montfort, in street names, bridges, buildings and schools I felt we should do something for this 750th anniversary,' member Bob James told us. 'The Simon de Montfort Society and the town are preparing a fortnight's celebration and I felt that as a philatelic society we should do our part. Being of an age to remember the 1965 Parliament stamp issue and how an Evesham postmark was what we all wanted on the cover now was a chance to do something of a similar nature. I put the suggestion to the society that we attempt to do this and it was greeted with approval.'

The cover is limited to 500 copies and will be available from 4 August by writing to: R. James, 11 Winchcombe Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 7UA. The price is £8 including postage and cheques should be made payable to 'R. James'.



How do you make a commemorative cover?

Having never done anything like this before I had to start from scratch, writes Bob James. How did I get a postmark? Where do I get the envelopes of the right card? How do I put an appropriate design on the cover? A kind gentleman at the Spring Stampex Royal Mail stand provided the name and phone number of the lady who is responsible for all the special handstamps.

A friend in the Simon de Montfort Society helped with the design of the envelopes so that the heraldic devices on the shields were correct. A local printer that I know helped with the right weight of paper for the envelopes and the printing of same.

Phil, my local stamp dealer at phill-lately-stamps.co.uk, has been a great help to me as I am not computer-minded, with reducing the postmark to the size needed by Royal Mail and the design and production of a club handstamp.

The system proved simpler than I had imagined it would be, once I had asked the right questions and got answers I understood. The society will, I think, produce other covers if suitable reasons come our way.

In brief

Just when we were thinking summer had finally arrived, Poland's post office issued a set of stamps celebrating the wintery Walt Disney animated blockbuster *Frozen*. Issued on 1 June, the two stamps show characters Anna and Elsa, with snowman Olaf shown in the background on the miniature sheet. *Frozen* was released in 2013 and is now the most successful animated film in history, receiving two Oscars.



While some collectors thought Britain's 2003 'Fruits' set, which came with stickers to add facial features to the fruit, was a bad idea, the designers at Austria Post obviously approved; the philatelic bureau has issued a similar design in a bid to encourage young people to eat more healthily. The stamp shows a cabbage head with carrots for hair, and fruit and veg for facial features. The stamp was designed by 14-year-old Jakob Hansbauer.



An Post, the post office of Ireland, have issued a stamp celebrating the life and work of William Butler (WB) Yeats. The stamp marks the Irish poet's 150th birth anniversary and features an image of the poet from London's National Portrait Gallery by photographer George C Beresford.

Contact details for the Bicycle Stamps Club, as published in July's *Stamp & Coin Mart*, have changed to the following: Brian Sole, 49 Westcar Lane, Hersham, Walton on Thames, KT12 5ER. Membership is £15 pa, payable to: 'The Bicycle Stamps Club'. Two A4 journals are published each year, in March and September.

More funding for 'Mail Rail'

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) has been awarded two funding grants, from Viridor Credits and AIM Biffa Award, in support of its plans to open Mail Rail – the old Post Office Underground Railway – to the public for the first time as part of The Postal Museum.

Viridor Credits and AIM Biffa Award are the charitable arms of their respective landfill companies, working to preserve Britain's industrial heritage and support environmental and community based projects in the areas local to their sites.

The BPMA has now secured more than 95 percent of the funds required to make The Postal Museum and Mail Rail a reality and continues to fundraise against the remaining

shortfall. CEO of Viridor Credits, John Lockwood said: 'It is a pleasure to contribute £100,000 from the Landfill Community Fund to such an unusual project. The underground Mail Rail is a real time capsule, saved for the nation, which can now be brought to life for the benefit of future museum visitors.'

AIM Biffa Award Project Manager, Sam Hunt said: 'Mail Rail, represents an ingenious and uniquely British solution to the problem of the capital city's crowded streets and the need to transport mail quickly and efficiently. We are delighted to support this project with an AIM Biffa Award. Our funding will provide visitor interpretation, together with the restoration and display of key rail track features of the railway at Mount Pleasant.'

New Post & Go from BPMA

The British Postal Museum & Archive will introduce a new Heraldic Lion Post & Go stamp to its Post & Go machine on 16 September.

The Heraldic Lion design was first used in a strip with five other Heraldic Beasts at Europhilex, however this will be the first time that it has been used alone as a generic image.

The stamp will bear the standard BPMA underprint and will be issued alongside the 1st and 2nd class Machin and Union Flag designs.

The stamps will be available from the BPMA foyer during standard opening hours until close on 18 October when the Heraldic Lion design will be temporarily replaced with the Poppy until 15 November.



1st Class stamp price could be capped

Independent regulator Ofcom has announced that it will be conducting a 'fundamental review of the regulation of Royal Mail' which could lead to a cap on the price of 1st Class stamps.

The announcement follows the news that Whistl, formerly known as TNT Post UK, have withdrawn from the UK, and details of the Government's intention to release its remaining fifteen percent stake in Royal Mail. Now Ofcom wants to ensure Royal Mail 'continues to become more efficient in the absence of national competition for the direct delivery of letters' and that the 'universal postal service' can continue.

A statement from Ofcom said: 'The review will ensure regulation remains appropriate and sufficient to secure the universal postal service, given the recent withdrawal by Whistl from the 'direct delivery' letters market, which has resulted in Royal Mail no longer being subject to national competition.'

Currently 2nd Class stamps can only be raised in line with inflation, but there is no restriction on 1st Class stamps, meaning Royal Mail can increase prices whenever it likes.

The review is expected to be completed, and a revised regulatory framework put in place, during 2016.



INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

ANDORRA

Few 100's in stockbook from O'Print on France 1932 vals to 20Fr., 1936 most to 70c, 1944 to 50Fr, later to 1990's. Nearly all mint **£110.00**

AUSTRALIA

100's in stock book, much of interest from few insignificant states, Roos, Heads to 1/4, main interest in mid period with 1937 to 1/= inc range imprint blocks of 4, 1932 Kingsford Smith 6d o.s., 1937 3d blue range (M) much else of interest in this fascinating lot Cat **£1350 £210.00**

BELGIUM

100's on Safe leaves from 1849 10c (2) 20c (3) 1861 1c-40c good further ranges to 1944 inc 1936 Charleroi, Borgerhout M/S, 1954 Beguinage 9Fr etc Railway Parcels inc 1879 set (FU) Very clean lot Cat **£2500 £325.00**

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

100's in stock book 1937- 60's inc 1949 Mining, '50 Philex M/S '51 Airm etc. Many M/S and better sets **£75.00**

GERMANY

100's in stock book, a really interesting mixture with many better inc 1899 Reichspost to 3Mk, further Germanias to 5Mk, Weimar and 3rd Reich with some sets, better items, E. Germany from 1949 with 1951 Mao 50pf, 1952 Politicians, Artists, Scientists set (M), extensive later, West Berlin inc Bells, Beethoven, Philharmonic etc. Super range **£225.00**

Allied Occupation 100's from bi-zone 1945 1Mk with good range perfs inc scarce, Numeral set (M & FU) range currency reform, Comems (M & FU) etc Cat **£1700 £225.00**

West 100's a FU collection which appears complete ex M/S 1949- 93 inc all the good early Welfare sets, St. Mary's Church, Bach etc. A lovely lot in fine condition Cat **£2850 £310.00**

HONG KONG

14 on Hagner, all good items from QV no Wmk 2c (M) Crown CC 12c (M) 96c FU, KG5 \$2, \$3 FU KG6 \$10 lilac and blue (M) etc Clean lot Cat **£1150 £195.00**

ICELAND

Several 100's from 1876 inc 1902 1-Gildi set (FU) 1907 to 50 aur, 1911 Sigardsson set, later with many sets and better items to 1996 inc good range 'dues' Cat **£1200 £150.00**

MALAYA

Staits 100's from strong Johore with 1894 S'Charge set, 1896 Coro set, Ibrahim to \$1, 1904 to 50c, 1949 set etc. Kedah, Kelantan, Malacca inc KG6 to \$1, N. Sembilan Pahang, Penang KG6 to \$5, 1954 set, Perak from 12 O'Prints, Surcharges on 2c

rose, 1892 set, 1903 S'Charges to 3c on \$1, 1950 set, Selangor 1949 set, Trengganu etc Much of merit Cat **£4200 £625.00**

Staits and FMS 100's from 1867 to 96c., 1883 to 96c, K.Ed to \$1 (2) KG5 to \$5, 1935 Jubilee, some Jap Occ inc dues, Tigers & Elephants to \$1 etc. Majority FU, a few fiscals have been removed Cat **£2000 £285.00**

NORTH BORNEO

Few 100's from S.G1, 1883 3c surcharge, 1886 1c pair imperf, good range pictorials inc 1901 O'Print types to \$5, KG6 to \$2, QE2, Dues etc. As usual CTO's ignored in Cat value of **£1600+ £250.00**

SAINT LUCIA

About 130 from first type 1/2d, 6d, 4d S'Charge scattered K.Ed, Kg5, KG6 to £1 (no 10/-) appears complete 1949 set to 1966, earlies FU, later mainly mint Cat **£485 £80.00**

SAN MARINO

Many 100's in stock book untidily arranged but inc much better with range M/S, sparse 1877-1920 ranges, then 1928 St. Francis set, 1929 5c- 20L (no 3L70) 1945 Arms most to 50L (2) Later in good number with many sets to 2,000 High cat value **£225.00**

SIERRA LEONE

80 from QV to 6d, K.Ed to 1/=-, KG5 range, 1938 set etc. Mixed M & FU Cat **£335 £50.00**

RUMANIA

100's in slim stockbook from 1862 6p, 30p, 1866 one of each value, 1890 set, 1903 P.O to 2L, 1906 all 4 welfare sets. 25th Anniv set, Jubilee Exhib set, 1928-43 fairly complete inc 1931 Army, Scouts, '32 Scouts, Medical, '34 Mamaia etc Super lot Cat **£3400+ £565.00**

U.S.A

Many 100's in stockbook 1920's-70's with many interesting in plate blocks of 4 or 6 UNM. There are many of these creating an interesting lot **£135.00**

YUGOSLAVIA

100's in Lighthouse album 1937-77 mainly VFU inc odd better V O'Print, fairly complete from 1960 inc Officials in sets **£55.00**

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Q&A: Patrick Maselis



We spoke to the General Commissioner of MonacoPhil, the prestigious philatelic event that is set to take place in December, and asked him how the event has changed over the years and what collectors can expect to see during their visit to the show...

How has the event developed in the last ten years?

Firstly it was only world rarities. Now we always combine this with a group exhibition on a certain topic and a high level catalogue. We obtained Large Gold International for our catalogues of 2009 and 2013.

Is the event more suited to French and local collectors or does it have an international appeal?

It has a very international appeal. French visitors are less than half. All communication is in French and English.

What can visitors to MonacoPhil 2015 expect to see?

The world's most expensive stamp and a very large exhibition on Polar Philately with the emphasis on expeditions.

How does the MonacoPhil event manage to exhibit such high profile items, such as the British Guiana 1c Magenta?

Because we are the place to be to exhibit world rarities. We had the Tre Skilling Banco of Sweden, the 1c 'Z-grill' of the USA, the block of four with plate number of the 'Inverted Jenny' and almost all known covers of the Mauritius Post Office.

So is the event more of an exhibition to view material, or can visitors buy too?

We have eighty stands of postal administrations and stamp dealers. You can buy a lot if you want!

Is visiting the event expensive?

Surprisingly, the nice thing is the low cost. Hotel rooms at €129 per night, the exhibition and the conferences and all receptions are free and you can move around in Monaco by bus for €1 per trip. The only expensive venues are the gala dinner (which HSH Prince Albert will most probably attend) and the Palmares dinner.

MonacoPhil 2015 takes place between 3 and 5 December, 2015. Find out more at the website: www.monacophil.eu

Society displays... are they a dying art?

You will recall, I hope, the first time you experienced a display from a philatelist and stamp collector, writes Dane Garrod. It was probably at a local stamp club, and you were much younger than you are today. Was it memorable? Well, it may have been on the day, or again, it may not. Much depended not only on the material shown, but on the inter-personal skills of the speaker. Probably more on the quality of the delivery. I always say that I would gladly listen to a talk on dolls' houses, or matchbox labels – neither of which interest me in the slightest – if the speaker is both entertaining and informative, especially the former, and can also readily relate to his/her audience.

However, there's something else that is now affecting presentations to societies to an increasing extent. Because of the slow decline in membership of local societies in the town or city, as opposed to specialist societies which are much more stable with their national membership, the number in the expected audience can be single figures. That can be disheartening to the society secretary of course, but also to the presenter who having travelled maybe many miles, often in the dark, is confronted with eight or nine souls. Not ideal, but that is as it is. However, in the last few months, a colleague travelled a return journey of about 120 miles to find an audience of just two.

You may suggest that the secretary has failed, but I would suggest he/she has not. The membership is only ten, which begs the question whether the society should have invited a speaker at all, not being able to guarantee all, or most, would be present. The thriving societies where a speaker can be fairly assured of a respectable audience have daytime meetings, and these are generally highly successful. You will hopefully know of one near you. My examples south of the Mersey-Wash line are the South Midlands Stamp Club and Salisbury Philatelic Society.

Beginning a number of years ago, a new addition was the PowerPoint presentation. The advantages were, and are, clear. The audience is obliged to look at exactly what the speaker wishes, and is clearly portrayed on the screen. No more back-to-the-audience presenters, or pausing to dwell on every sheet. The items to speak about are finite, as is the delivery time. The added addition of a visual/audio 'intro' and 'outro', to set the scene and summarise, is something that perhaps only I'm stupid enough to experiment with – but I believe it has made a presentation a more complete entity.

So where are we going? I believe the premier society in the UK has found one particular answer. The Royal Philatelic Society London has recently begun to transmit their 5pm speaker/PowerPoint presentations live on the internet. Also, brevity continues to be paramount, with thirty to 35 minutes allowed. If you're thinking of dozing off in that short time, you really shouldn't be in the audience, but watching it from home in your armchair where your slumber, should it occur, will be known to only your family.

Finally, in this short discourse, let me highlight the daytime meetings, often on a Saturday, that have a keynote speaker, a pleasurable lunch at the venue, and then invited five or ten minute presentations from the audience. Now that's what I call improved and updated philately. What do you think?



A society audience awaits a philatelic display. You can read more about societies on page 78

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Warwick & Warwick

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Our regular update from the British Postal Museum & Archive as it works to open The Postal Museum in 2016

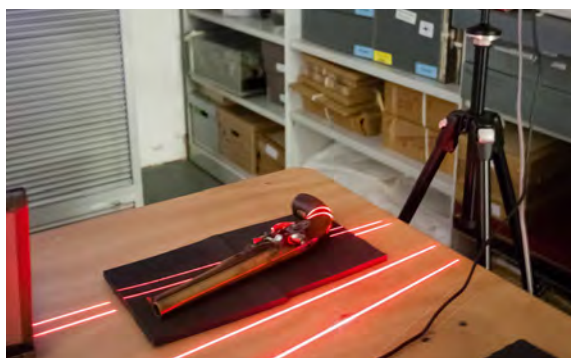


Sharing our exciting projects

Last month's Europhilex was very exciting for us here at the BPMA. It's the first time we've had such a strong presence at a show and we were pleased to have had the opportunity to show off some of the exciting projects we're involved in. As we move closer to the opening of The Postal

Museum, public events like these become increasingly important for us as it gives us the chance to talk to our future visitors to find out what they're looking for. It was great to meet so many interested people across the week, showing the sheer level of support within the philatelic community for a new museum.

On our stand we had the Machin cast that created the iconic portrait of Queen Elizabeth II that has been used on UK stamps since 1967. Last year we worked with University College London to 3D scan this remarkable object in order to make it more accessible both before the museum opens and remotely once it has. Another object from the collection scanned as part of this project was a flintlock pistol, once used by a Mail Coach Guard to protect the post from highway men and other thieves.



Top: the BPMA's display of the Machin cast at the London 2015 event
Above: a flintlock pistol once used by a Mail Coach Guard is digitally scanned

To see the latest news on our plans for The Postal Museum please visit the website: www.postalmuseum.org

Events & exhibitions

5 August

Museum Store Tour

Join us on a curator-led behind the scenes tour for a walk through hundreds of years of British social history, and get up close to some of our most iconic objects. Visits include two 30-minute curator-led tours, complimentary refreshments and an opportunity to explore the collection at your leisure. **Unit 7, Imprimo Park, Debden Industrial Estate, Lenthall Road, Loughton, Essex. IG10 3UF. Admission: £3, £2.50 concessions (60+) and free for accompanied children under 12 years old**

5 August

Archive Tour

Join us for an introduction to the extraordinary social history collections of The British Postal Museum & Archive with a behind the scenes tour of the archive. Laid out over 2.5 miles of shelving and covering social, communications and design history from 1636 to the present day, BPMA's archivists will reveal the fascinating stories of British and world history through the eyes of one of the country's most iconic services. **Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DL. Suggested donation - £2 per person.**

Until 7 September

Penny Black 175 - BPMA Search Room

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of the introduction of the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, this exhibition tells the story of its creation



and phenomenal social impact. On display will be an original sheet of the iconic Penny Blacks, offering a rare opportunity to view this stand-out object up close. **Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DL, free entry, open during standard BPMA opening hours**

8 July - 27 September

Pop it in the Post: Your World at the end of the Street - Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham

At this family-friendly exhibition discover the story of the letter writing revolution, enabled by the world's first ever stamp, and the UK's first pillar boxes. Meet the individuals who made this possible, and understand how millions of people's lives were changed. The world was now available to everyone - simply through the pillar box at the end of your street.

To see opening times for the exhibitions or to book tickets to the store tour visit www.postalheritage.org.uk



Latest auction results

The recent auction of the Rev Roger de Lacy-Spencer Collection of Railway Stamps at Grosvenor proved popular with experts at the London auction house suggesting the catalogue will be an 'important work of reference for collectors of this fascinating subject in years to come'. Rarities in the sale included a 'pre-first day' Midland Railway envelope sent to Bath on 31 January, 1891, the day before railway letter stamps were issued to the public.

SOLD FOR £3,070

The recent Sajal Philatelics Cover Auctions sale saw a number of rare First Day Covers go under the hammer, including a 1964 Shakespeare with Glamis Circular Date Stamp (CDS) which fetched £170; a 1964 Geographical Council House Street Dover CDS, which sold for £380 (pictured); and a 1960 6d Phosphor Definitive which went for £460. The firm's postal auctions are held monthly and there is no buyer's premium.

SOLD FOR £380



At the Warwick & Warwick June monthly stamp auction covers were very much in demand, with British, Commonwealth and World lots selling well above estimate. A very rare Shakespeare 1851 illustrated cover offered at £100 eventually sold for £800 (including premium of eighteen percent), despite some faults.

SOLD FOR £800

The fifth sale of the 'Lionheart' Collection of Great Britain and British Empire at Spink saw a 1/- green and carmine, with inverted overprint, tied to a piece sent to 'Mount Pleasant, Parcel Office, London' sell for £7,500.

SOLD FOR £7,500





Internet auctions

Your quick reference price guide to recent internet sales,
in association with delcampe.net



Two very rare Saint Helena corner marginal blocks of four of the 1922-37 1/2d with watermarks inverted, these showing the 'cleft rock' and 'torn flag' varieties respectively, recently sold at Grosvenor. The auctioneers explained: 'As only four sheets with inverted watermark are known these blocks are likely to be the only surviving positional blocks showing these flaws and the £9,824 paid was well merited.'

SOLD FOR £9,824



A strong section of India produced one of the highest prices at Grosvenor's sale, for a neatly cancelled pair of the 1854-55 4a. blue and red, Head die II, Frame die I, third printing, from stone 'B'.

SOLD FOR £10,710



SOLD FOR: £1,663

Gabon 15c blue overprinted 75c 1886 French Colony issue MNH signed



SOLD FOR £499

Very nice Penny Black used with beautiful margins



SOLD FOR £687

Belgium 20c blue 'Epaulettes - Moens' 1866 red line erased MH with cert



SOLD FOR £1,413

Seychelles rare cover to Mauritius franked at 4d rate tied by 'B64' barred obliterations with Seychelles despatch cds on reverse alongside Mauritius



SOLD FOR £1,302

Vatican 500 lire 'Cupola di San Pietro' 1958 perforation variety (14 x 14)



SOLD FOR £506

French Somali Coast 5 francs red (1893) Obock stamp overprinted Djibouti MH



SOLD FOR £190

Falkland 2/6 Deep blue 1898 used

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WORLD VIEW

Canal Zone stamps



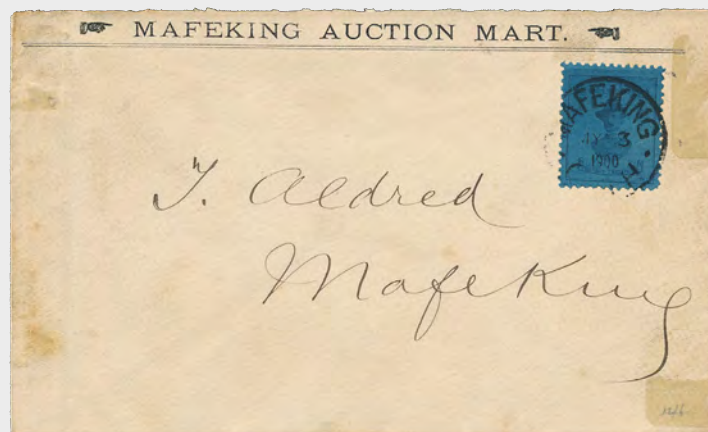
The Canal Zone was a tiny area and administrative district that was carved out of the Republic of Panama in the early years of the twentieth century for the purpose of building an canal across the isthmus of Panama, writes John Apfelbaum. The political rationalisation for the Canal Zone was that the United States was going to put up the money to build a canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and we wanted to be sure that we had administrative control over a region that had very little government indeed.



The great fun of this 'country' is how inexpensive it is compared to rarity

The philately of the Canal Zone is among the most interesting in all of our hobby. The stamps are listed in the *Scott United States Specialized* catalogue and comprise hundreds of major issues. But the real interest in this country is in the many varieties. As many of the stamps and overprints were locally produced, there are literally thousands of varieties listed by Scott and as many more that are not even in the catalogue. And the great fun of this country is how inexpensive it is compared to rarity. Here is a US area of influence country in the *Specialized* catalogue with varieties of which less than 50 or 100 were issued and they often sell for less (sometimes much less) than \$100 each. If you're looking for a new area of interest, take a look at Canal Zone. And the specialists of this area have an active and interesting club that can be found at: www.canalzonestudygroup.com

John Apfelbaum has spent a lifetime learning about stamp collecting. He runs the venerable firm of stamp professionals Earl PL Apfelbaum, a business that has dealt in only stamps since 1901 and which was founded by his great grandfather. He can be reached at jda2006@aol.com



A 1900 commercial Mafeking cover, bearing a 3d Baden-Powell stamp, was expected to get a lot of interest at the recent Warwick and Warwick sale and the auctioneers were not disappointed. From an estimate of £800 heavy bidding quickly pushed the price up to £2,480.

SOLD FOR £2,480.



A 1919 Newfoundland 'Hawker' 3c brown overprinted 'FIRST TRANS-ATLANTIC AIR POST April, 1919' recently sold at Spink. The 3c stamp was initialled 'J.A.R.' on the reverse by the Postmaster Dr JA Robinson. In 'fresh and very fine unmounted mint' condition, the very rare stamp has a catalogue value of £22,000.

SOLD FOR £11,000.



The Dr Guy Leroux collection of the Second Anglo-Boer War recently sold at Grosvenor contained many rare covers. An attractive outgoing 'In Dienst' envelope showing strikes of the Waterval prisoner of war camp commandant's blue datestamp and purple cachet of the Commandant General in Pretoria was amongst the lots from this important period.

SOLD FOR £1,203

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Andrew McGavin, Managing Director Universal Philatelic Auctions

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...Continued from page 3

Our Business Model is Different ...

6. **You said that before. So Just How does UPA differ?** We looked for solutions to the 'unsolds' problem – if we could solve that problem we would sell more, utilise stock more efficiently and have funds available for new stock ... and so we created ...

7. **Selling Systems.** It is a 'given' you can order sets / singles in standard condition from dealers ... but the moment a stamp becomes used, or even mounted mint it is no longer standard. Is it heavy hinged, is the cancel parcel, wavy or CDS (circular date stamp)? Each stamp requires separate handling and unique pricing so the only way to handle such efficiently is in a selling system.

8. **Integrated Selling Systems. Avon & Omniphil Approvals** - 20 years ago our business sold in 2 different selling systems: **individually** priced stamps upon home **approval** and **unit priced** 'loose' stamps sent to collectors as **mixtures** (today you can still request either / both from the coupons beside the index). A bit like 'Water-Works' and 'Electricity' in monopoly the 2 systems allowed us to buy more, sell more and pay higher prices to obtain better stock ... but we had no outlet for rarer / high value stamps so ...

9. **Universal Philatelic Auctions.** ... 15 years ago we created and added UPA to allow us to handle more valuable stamps not suited to Approvals, but we knew that in order to eliminate the 'unsolds' issue we needed to come up with a further unique selling proposition ...

10. **Best of Conventional Auctions.** ... so we scoured the stamp

world for best practice ideas and all of the features that collectors like you love - such as lots unconditionally guaranteed or dislike such as pernicious buyer's premiums. UPA employed all of the best features and then carefully added unique features such as ...

11. **Standardised Shipping, Insurance Included.** ... so that no matter how much you win you'll know in advance exactly how much delivery will be ... (and we made it modest too) ... finally, and this is the **painful part** we had to recognise that if something was not selling it was too expensive ... so ...

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Quality, rarity and value

The scarcity of a stamp does not necessarily influence the price it can fetch. It all depends on the demand for the material, meaning there are plenty of bargains to be found out there, as David Bailey reveals in his regular opinion column



Back in the late 1950s, word went round the school that the 11d Wilding (SG553) was about to be withdrawn and was sure to become a collector's item. I decided to stock up – big time.

I went down to Caterham Post Office and bought eleven of them. I didn't realise then that dealers bought them in sheets and judging by its value today, the rest of the world was buying sheets of 11ds too.

But even now, I'm still surprised by the sheer quantity of stuff 'out there' in dealer's stocks and private collections. My favourite auction is famous for its Box Lots, crates and cartons full of albums, stockbooks, envelopes and tins, and all of them stuffed full of stamps. The total catalogue value could pay off the National Debt.

Starting with the 68 million 1d blacks, stamps have always been a mass produced commodity. According to *Numbers Issued* (Stanley Gibbons 1990), the QV stamps produced in Great Britain would cover seventeen square miles. There is still a lot of this about; the stamp trade was well-organised even in those days. Used examples were collected, re-imported, packaged and sold to the burgeoning collectors market here and abroad. Today, I suspect that the number of stamp collectors is going down rather than up, so fewer people will be chasing a fixed quantity of material. I think this will widen the gap between top quality stamps, which will hold their value, and lower quality stamps, which won't. So buy the best.

Ideally, market prices should reflect real world scarcity. Instead, they reflect supply and demand and there a number of factors which influence it. Inclusion in a printed album makes a marked difference to the value of modern perf, phosphor and gum variations. Impact on the album page matters too. The rarest British stamp officially sold to the public is the mousy 2/- brown of February 1880. Only 77,620 copies were printed and dealers' prices for fine/very fine used range from £1,200 to £1,800. Contrast this with the £5 orange of which 246,826 copies were printed. Dealers' prices for good used start around £1,300 and can go all the way to £4,000 or more for fine/very fine.

Stamps can also acquire legendary status which can propel their value to stratospheric heights.

A recent Sandafayre advertisement featured half a dozen unique stamps, each as rare in its own way as the 1c black on magenta. But I doubt if any of them will fetch the same puffed-up price.

Britain's legendary stamp is the 1d red plate 77. So its catalogue

and sales prices consistently exceed those for far scarcer stamps among the abnormals. These last are my favourite rarities. Abnormals were produced when a new plate was registered and six sheets were printed from it. One sheet was kept by Somerset House; the others were often returned to the system to be perforated, gummed and distributed. In a handful of cases, the plate

in question was never put to press, or printed in a different colour, or on paper with a different watermark. So the 'five extra sheets' created new stamps.

For instance, the 9d with hairlines was never put to press. 46 used copies are known and they catalogue £13,000. The 4d plate 17 was eventually printed in

grey brown. At least seventeen used examples in sage green are known and it catalogues £20,000.

Many collectors would pass over these stamps with barely a second look. And that's why I think there may be a one or two more out there. Good hunting!



Market prices should reflect real world scarcity, but instead, they reflect supply and demand and there a number of factors which influence it

What's your favourite QEII stamp?

In September the Queen will become Britain's longest reigning monarch and we'll be celebrating the event with a special feature in the September issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine (on sale 14 August) asking dealers, experts and collectors to pick their most memorable QE2 stamp. So which QE2 stamp gets your vote and why? We'd love to hear your stories about collecting QE2 stamps – British or Commonwealth – so let us know by e-mailing: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk or send your story to us at: *Stamp & Coin Mart*, Fifth Floor, 31-32 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 5JD. Please include your contact details in any correspondence so we can get in touch with you.

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

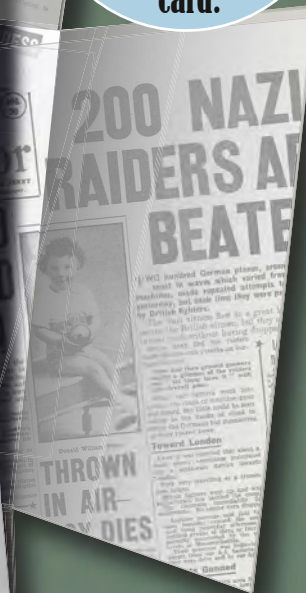


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ROYAL MAIL YEAR BOOKS

The ultimate coffee table book



Referred to as 'the ultimate coffee table book for philatelists' by Royal Mail, these beautiful Year Books were introduced by the Post Office in 1984 as a luxury item, writes Amanda Grieve. Each book contains an illustrated chapter on every commemorative stamp issue that year, along with a full set of the stamps for the collector to place into slip-in mounts on the appropriate pages. Since 1989, miniature sheets have also been included. They are hardback books contained within a rigid sleeve for protection. In 1995, the Post Office introduced limited edition leather-bound Year Books.

An interesting Year Book for collectors to look out for is the 1988 volume, which is the only source of an unissued 13p Christmas stamp of that year. During 1988 postage rates were increased from 13p to 14p, but the books had already been printed and the stamps enclosed. The 13p stamps had to be replaced by the new 14p stamp, but some books escaped the process. This 13p Christmas stamp is therefore extremely rare and valuable.

The 2012 Year Book is extremely difficult to get hold of as they sold out before the Royal Mail withdrawal date of 6 November, 2014. It could be due to 2012 being a very special year with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London Olympic Games, making these books a stunning keepsake.



The 1990 Year Book; each book showcases the stamps issued that year in detail

Win a 2015 Royal Mail Year Book!

Don't miss your chance to win a year book in our photo competition. See page 9 for further details.



POSTMARKS

S.H.A.P.E.

From time to time we shall be featuring postmarks in this column from countries other than Great Britain, writes David Gwynn. The world is full of interesting and unusual postmarks, and we will be covering many of them here.

Our first offering is the postmark once used at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (S.H.A.P.E.) in France. In 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty had been signed, pledging joint action and support by its members should another be attacked. Just over a year later the Korean War began and Soviet aggression in Europe was feared.

Consequently an integrated military structure was established under General Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. He and his staff, who were drawn from member states, needed a headquarters, and so a site at Rocquencourt north of Paris was chosen. S.H.A.P.E. as an organisation was established in April 1951 and moved into its new headquarters in July.

The French Post Office provided postal facilities at the site, and a dedicated postmark, which is illustrated here, was brought into use. In 1967 General de Gaulle withdrew France from the military command structure of NATO, and the S.H.A.P.E. headquarters were moved to Casteau in Belgium.

Stamp glossary

Postal Stationery - An envelope, card, or aerogramme featuring a printed image of a postage stamp and sold by the post office as a prepaid form of postage.

CINDERELLAS

Homage to Moby Dick

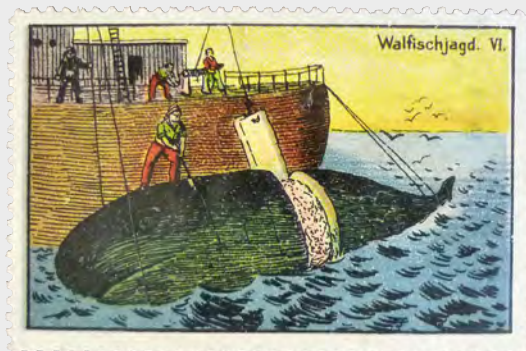
The idea of signing on for the duration of a whale hunt aboard a vessel that still relied in part upon the whims of the wind as a power source to drive it across the world's oceans, enticed many a Victorian or Edwardian youth to join the crew, writes Ed Fletcher. Those among the eager adventure seekers who had not read Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, published in 1851 (and recently ranked No. 14 in the *Guardian's* Top 100 novels), usually suffered more than sea-sickness as their apprenticeship in blubber boiling and whalebone cutting got underway. Younger brothers, still safe ashore, could turn to their poster stamp collections for a second-hand flavour of the hellish business. Whale hunting provided poster stamp artists of the day with a topic around which a set of designs could be created at a time when collecting these perforated give-aways helped to boost sales of all manner of consumer goods.

This set, entitled *Walfisch Jagd* (Whale Hunting) was one of at last issued by a Bremen apothecary named Wilhelm Lahusen, manufacturer of what we would nowadays term a quack medicine made from whale oil. Scenes depicted included one in which a leviathan fights back by smashing a hunting boat to matchwood. The others graphically record the fate of whale carcasses taken back to the mother ship for processing. A later set concentrated more on the technicalities of finding and killing the whales.

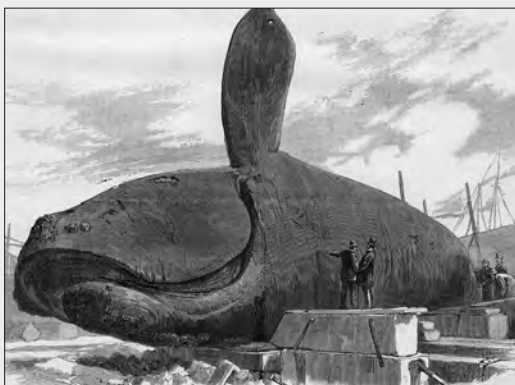
Spermaceti, the most valuable reward of the hunt, was extracted from the creature's severed head and used ashore to make finest quality candles which burned brightly and gave off no smell. Cosmetics manufacturers also bought spermaceti; its total lack of aroma made it an ideal ingredient for expensive face creams and body lotions. The whale used it as part of its echo-locating and food-finding apparatus. Alternative ingredients for human use have since been developed and the world's whales are now recovering from near extinction. It is pleasing to note that poster stamps can help to remind us of their history.



The harpooner's job certainly demanded bravery as he stood at the prow of a tiny rowing boat and waited for a leviathan to surface a few feet ahead of the vessel. Great skill was required to hurl the lance and strike a fatal blow



But there was little glamour in the work aboard the mother ship as a dying whale was flensed of its blubber and drained of its sperm oil



Woodcut from an 18th-century newspaper. Two hundred years ago whales of this size were frequently stranded in ports and harbours about the world. In those days schools of whales abounded in every sea and ocean... until insatiable demand for whalebone and spermaceti oil brought whales close to extinction



Cinderella stamps allow you to gain knowledge of this vanished industry, while most whales now roam free



A 1993 poster advertising newly issued Machin stamps

MACHINS

Post Office posters

Throughout almost the entire lifetime of the Machin series, the Post Office produced special posters advertising their sale, writes Adrian Keppel. These posters have always been a very successful way to promote the sale of special issues, but there are also plenty of Machin posters to be found.

The first example was issued in 1967, announcing the first stamps from a new general series. The poster, printed in black, white and red, depicted the newly designed 4d Machin stamp. Like almost all its successors, it was printed in A4 format.

Since then, most rate changes and newly issued definitives were granted their own poster. This practice lasted until well into the 21st century, with the campaign for the introduction of the 'Pricing in Proportion' system in 2006 being among the last to be published. According to the *Complete Deegam Machin Handbook* there are over 100 main posters to collect.

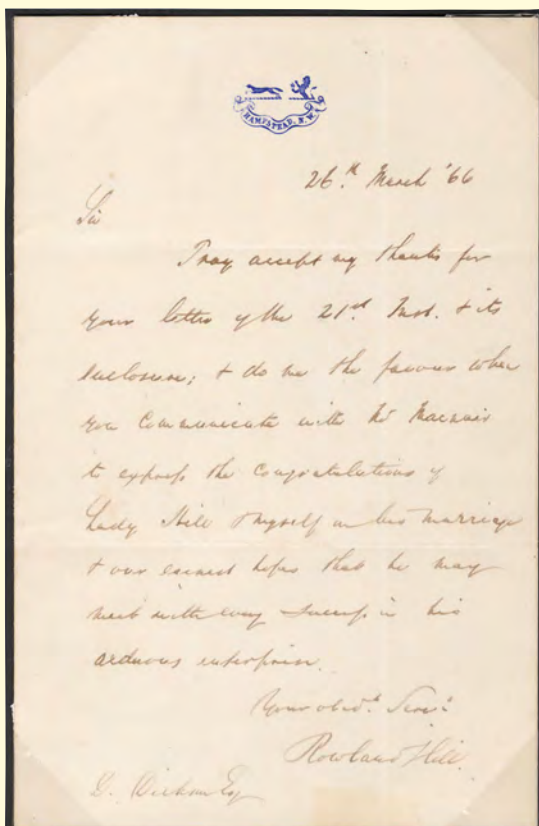
These being Machin items, there is thankfully some specialisation possible as well, with many posters being made available with either additional text such as rates tables, or additional items depicted, such as first day covers. The best ones to go for, however, are the posters published in Welsh.



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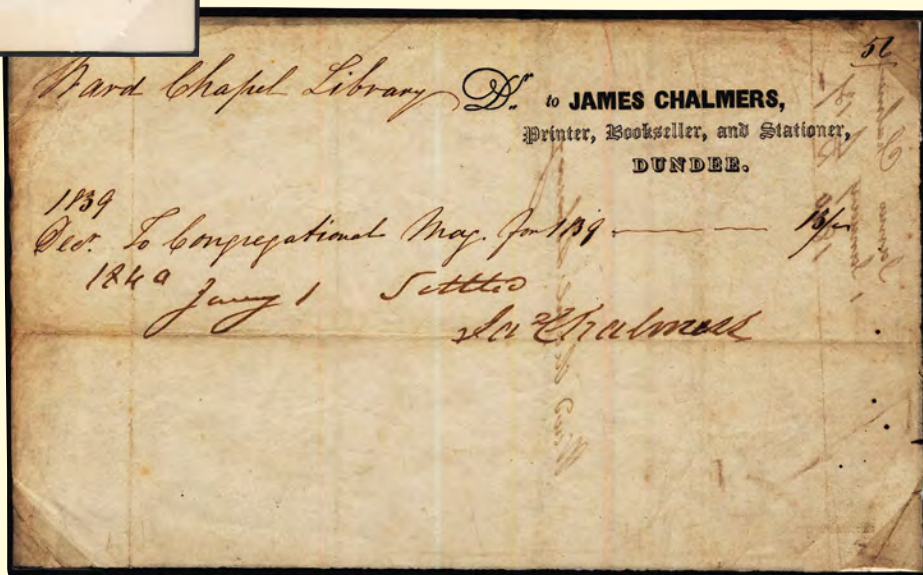
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FIRST DAY COVERS

The Dam Busters

In the last few years we have seen new issue cover prices rise, either due to the high face value of stamps, rising production costs or combinations of both, writes Brian Austin. Many people are surprised that older officials can be cheaper than a new one and the series which this month's cover is from is a great example of this.

The RFDC official cover series was made up of 100 first day covers issued between 1981 and 1992. Each cover was an official for that postmark, flown, a certified limited edition and normally with two connected signatures. Some of these issues can still be picked up for as little as £5 each, while today a similar cover would have to retail for at least £24.95.

This series is not packed with lots or very good signatures and maybe that is what puts people off, though there are a few including this cover produced for the 1985 Films issue. It is a limited edition of 1,600 and was flown in a Tornado of the current 617 squadron, over their Second World War home, by the Commanding Officer, who also signed it. In addition it was also signed by the actor Richard Todd, who played Guy Gibson in the 1954 film



The Dam Busters. Though best known as a film star, during the war Todd was in the parachute regiment and took part in D-Day. He went on to play Major John Howard, the commander at Pegasus Bridge.

FORGERIES

Hadi's imitations

If you specialise in stamp forgeries, you will no doubt be familiar with the name Mirza Hadi, a Persian philatelist and stamp dealer residing in France, writes Keijo Kortelainen. Unlike most forgers who focused on just valuable stamps, Hadi followed in the footsteps of master forger François Fournier by creating large scale reprint and forgery productions and reselling them to collectors. Hadi's forging career extends from the 1910s to the 1960s and includes forgeries for places like Italian Post Offices abroad, Persia, Serbia and Transvaal.

In the early 1960s, Hadi launched a large scale production of Serbian 1905 King Peter definitive stamp forgeries for use as cheap packet trade material. These forgeries are plentiful in mint condition, but as the illustration shows, they can also be found with fake cancellations. The main characteristic of these forgeries is the broken top frame near the right corner. However, since a similar flaw can appear also on genuine stamps, other identification factors are required.

First, the forgeries often appear fresher than the real thing. This is because the



The genuine example is shown on the left, on the right is the Hadi forgery - note the broken frame at top right

forgeries were printed on paper which is slightly thicker and whiter than any of the originals. Also the inking often appears more vivid.

Secondly, the perforation is slightly different, and it is easiest to notice when comparing genuine and forgery side by side. Thick paper originals have got line

perforation 12 x 11½, thin paper originals have got line perforation 11½, but the forgeries are perforated approximately 11.7.

Third, the originals were printed in typography, the forgeries used offset-lithography. So with originals you can usually see sharp details, with forgeries the details are often blurry and dull.



Triumph of The Few

In the summer of 1940, Britain stood alone. The USA was yet to enter the war and within just a few months, Hitler's armies had invaded much of Europe. But all was not lost as Britain still had hope in the shape of an elite band of fighter pilots whose bravery is celebrated in Royal Mail's latest issue

The Battle of Britain issue marks the 75th anniversary of aerial battle which was fought over the skies of southern England from July to October 1940, as British fighter pilots struggled to retain air supremacy against the threat of Hitler's Operation Sea Lion which had put plans in place for an aerial and land invasion of Britain.

After a full year of conflict, the onward march of the Nazis across Europe seemed almost inevitable as country after country fell. The Battle of Dunkirk in the spring



The black and white of the archive images are given a dash of colour from the sky blue silhouette of the Queen



of 1940 had shown just how vulnerable British forces were in standing against the might of Hitler; yet the heroic evacuation of troops from the Dunkirk beaches, as civilian boats and their crew came to the aid of Allied soldiers, had shown that Britain had the strength and the stomach to resist surrender.

In the summer of 1940, thousands of RAF pilots took to the skies to defend Britain under the command of Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding. After three months and three weeks of hard fighting, Britain had retained her air supremacy, saving the nation from a German invasion and giving much-needed hope for the fight still to come.

The stamps

The six stamps feature photographic imagery from this period, showing some of the many aspects of the battle and the people involved, including pilots, ground crew, observers and Operations Room

staff. In using archive images, Royal Mail have brought a sense of history to the stamps, allowing us to appreciate the magnitude of the battle, and Britain's heroic yet vulnerable position during the second summer of the war.

The first stamp (1st) shows RAF fighter pilots running towards their Hurricanes after receiving a 'scramble call' to engage with enemy aircraft. Some 2,936 pilots took part in the Battle of Britain, a mixture of experienced and newly-trained pilots, of whom 544 lost their lives in the fighting.

The next stamp (1st) takes us to the heart of the action with an aerial view of a close formation of Supermarine Spitfires from 610 Squadron at Biggin Hill. In 1940, this aircraft had been used by the RAF for ten years and, in wartime, was manufactured in large numbers at sites around the country, most notably at Castle Bromwich in the West Midlands, where more than 12,000 Supermarine Spitfires had been produced by the end of the war.

This aircraft again takes centre stage on stamp three (the final 1st class value) with an image of armorer Fred Roberts re-arming a Spitfire whilst pilot Sergeant Bernard Jennings consults his mechanic. The lives of the pilots were literally in the hands of their trusted ground crew, who were tasked with ensuring the

Stamp details

Battle of Britain

Issue date: 16 July, 2015

Design: The Team

Size: 41mm x 30mm

Printer: International Security Printers

Perforations: 14.5 x 14

1st - Pilots and Hurricanes

1st - Supermarine Spitfires

1st - Armourer

£1.33 - Auxiliary Territorial Service

£1.33 - Operations Room

£1.33 - Squadron 32



safety of each aircraft before it left on a mission, and monitoring the plane and its crew once they were in the air. The fourth stamp (£1.33) highlights this teamwork with a photo of Auxiliary Territorial Service recruits receiving a lesson in identifying enemy aircraft; a crucial skill which needed split-second application once the pilots were in real-life aerial combat.

The final two stamps (£1.33) show the Bentley Priory Operations Room and fighter pilots of 32 Squadron relaxing between missions at RAF Hawkinge in Kent. Bentley Priory was a country house close to Watford which played a crucial role in the Second World War as the headquarters of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. The Battle's commander Sir Hugh Dowding had his office here and in the underground Operations Room, he monitored the intelligence reports

The stamps recall not only the heroics in the air but the staff involved in the Battle on the ground.

The Battle of Britain was first recalled on a set of British stamps in September 1965



needed to plan and implement Britain's air defence during these crucial months.

Product portfolio

The Battle of Britain product portfolio provides more detail about the Battle using stamps, postcards and a coin to chart its history and legacy.

The miniature sheet border features an image of Prime Minister Winston Churchill at a coastal defence position near Hartlepool on 31 July, 1940, alongside his famous quotation about 'the few': 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.' This stirring admission was part of a speech which Churchill made in the House of Commons on 20 August, 1940, imploring Britons to stand firm against Nazi aggression and to fight the war both on the Home Front and overseas.

The First Day Envelope, designed by The Team, features a photograph



of Supermarine Spitfires in formation during the Battle of Britain. The filler card includes a brief overview of the Battle of Britain, written by Peter Devitt, Curator at the RAF Museum in London, alongside a photograph of pilots of 303 (Polish) Squadron, the Fighter Command's most successful individual unit during the battle.

The Presentation Pack has been designed to recall posters and publications of the Second World War and inside features expert analysis from RAF Museum Curator Peter Devitt. The main narrative is complemented by a detailed timeline and an overview of each of the key British and enemy aircraft involved, accompanied by silhouettes of each plane. The pack also explores the contribution of 'the many', with sections on ground crew, intelligence officers, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and the Air Transport Auxiliary recruits.

The six special stamps and the complete miniature sheet are reproduced at postcard size and three postmarks are also available – a non-pictorial postmark stamped London NW9 (the home of the RAF Museum), and two pictorial versions featuring the Supermarine Spitfire (Tallents House, Edinburgh) and a Hawker Hurricane (London NW9).

Also available is a coin cover, issued on Battle of Britain Day, which includes a special 50p coin issued by the Royal Mint and a cancelled miniature sheet commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The insert focuses on the contribution of 'the many': among other topics, Historian James Holland describes the air defence system designed by Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, the role of the Bentley Priory (which served as headquarters of Fighter Command during the battle) and the key part that Royal Observer Corps played during the summer and autumn of 1940.



For your chance to win one of ten Battle of Britain presentation packs, courtesy of Royal Mail, simply answer the question below:

How many pilots took part in the Battle of Britain?

Enter online at: www.stampandcoinmart.co.uk

You can also enter by post. Send your answer, name and address to:

Stamp & Coin Mart magazine, Battle of Britain Competition (SCM2077), Warners Group Publications, 31-32 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5JD. Closing date: 13 August, 2015. Winner picked at random from correct entries. Editor's decision is final.

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GB update

The third Prestige Stamp Book (PSB) of 2015 marks the Bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. As usual the PSB contains all ten of the commemorative stamps issued in ordinary sheets and miniature sheet format. The pane consists as usual of eight stamps, two each of 5p, 10p, 50p and £1, surrounding a central label depicting the Monument on Lion Mound in Belgium. Three values are new this year, whilst the 5p value was included in the Great War 1915 prestige stamp book issued in May.

New slogan postmarks in use during June included slogans for the Magna Carta and Battle of Waterloo stamps, followed by one for the Magna Carta anniversary day. Although the latter was announced as a 'one-day' slogan on 18th, it was actually used on at least 13th, 15th and 16th at various Mail Centres. This did not include Chester which on 16 June was still celebrating the birth of the Royal Princess! Similarly Edinburgh Mail Centre used the Battle of Waterloo stamps slogan, and one reminding about Father's Day, both on 18 June. Other recent slogans included Armed Forces Day (27 June); and another for Dog Awareness Week (in use between 27 June and 3 July).

Royal Mail vans featured one of the Magna Carta stamps in twelve towns linked to the story of the Magna Carta, including Runnymede, Durham, Lincoln, Salisbury and Oxford.

Several more Machin security stamps have appeared recently. The 1st Class Large from business sheets, like the 2nd Class Large have a printing date of 23/02/15. The 10p counter sheet has at last made an appearance, printed on 13/05/15, as has the 1st Class booklet of six (coded MSIL).

Ian Billings
<http://blog.norphil.co.uk>



The unresolved envelope

Sean Connery is James Bond. Elvis, the King of Rock, is strumming 'Return to Sender', Leningrad is St Petersburg and 'Vienna' by Ultravox is blasting out on the radio... Devlan Kruck's mind is wandering following the examination of an intriguing Victorian cover

OK, unless this is a time warp and we're back in the early 1960s Sean Connery isn't James Bond, and it's unlikely that we'd be listening to Elvis Presley plucking out that song, as it too was an early 60s hit. What's more, St Petersburg became Leningrad in 1924 only to revert back to St Petersburg in 1991. Ultravox had a hit with 'Vienna' in 1981, and let's face it, 'Vienna' is best known as the capital of Austria.

So what's with all the reminiscing with the past, you might ask. It's the cover illustrated here that's got all these mixed-up memories from the past dancing around my head. The 1889 envelope has been sent from London to Russia, St Petersburg to be precise, not a common destination for the Victorian period, and redirected to 'Wien' (Vienna to you and me). Having made the trip back towards the West it seems to have hit the same stumbling block as in the East and then been returned undelivered.

Whilst redirected and undelivered mail isn't uncommon, what is charming about this cover is the use of tickets to progress the handling of the mail. We are all used to seeing the numerous postmarks scattered about the front and back of redirected covers of the time here in Britain, signifying the transit taken, and manuscript marks and charges as explanatory notes, all looking a bit chaotic. In Russia care seems to have been taken by the addition of attaching slips; there are two stuck to the reverse of this envelope. These don't tend to survive intact, so it's a bonus that they are still in situ. And there is a pleasant surprise when you lift these up, as they reveal a sticky label which has been fixed in Austria, stating 'Not Resolved/Non reclaim', another nice touch.

While trying to decipher the Russian and German text on the cover, the 007 film *From Russia with Love*, and the catchy Elvis song 'Return to Sender' come to mind. This led to further musings about the journey the cover made from MI6 HQ (I made that up) to St Petersburg (Leningrad as it was when Ultravox



Whilst redirected and undelivered mail isn't uncommon, what is charming about this cover is the use of tickets to progress the handling of the mail

had a hit with 'Vienna') to the Austrian capital and back again to London.

Inevitably you wonder who Frederick Hill might have been (a Great Great Grandfather of the Editor maybe? – *nothing on the family tree - Ed*), and what was he doing in Russia, and presumably Austria in 1889-90. Did he receive the letter eventually? I guess there is always more research we can undertake with such material, but perhaps we'll never be sure of the exact circumstances. However, like the route the envelope took, it's been a notable excursion nonetheless.

About the author



Devlan Kruck is a philatelist, postal historian and stamp dealer, specialising in Victorian GB. Find out more at the Empire Collectables website: www.empirecollectables.com

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SS10	1925 Wembley (2), SG 432-33 U/M £32.00 , Mtd. or F/U £19.00 , Used £12.00 , S/Filler	£ 3.50
SS11	1929 P.U.C. Sideways Wmk. (3), SG 434a-6a U/M £159.00 , Mtd. or F/U £59.00 , Used	£ 37.00
SS12	1929 P.U.C. Inverted Wmk. (3), SG 434Wi-6Wi U/M £39.00 , Mtd. £18 , F/U £13 , Used	£ 6.50
SS13	1939 G.VI. to £1 (6), SG 476-78b U/M £225.00 , Mtd. £110.00 , F/U £21.00 , Used	£ 9.50
SS14	1940 Stamp Centenary (6), SG 478-84 U/M £2.90 , F/U	£ 1.50
SS15	1948 Silver Wedding £1,SG 494 U/M £14.95 , Mtd. or F/U £12.00 , S/Fillers Mint or Used	£ 5.50
SS16	1948 Olympics (4), SG 495-98 U/M £2.95 , F/U	£ 1.50
SS17	1951 Festival (4), SG 509-12 U/M £42.00 , Mtd. £22.00 , F/U £8.00 , Used	£ 3.50
SS18	1952 Tudor Wmk. (17), SG 515-531 U/M £46.00 , Mtd. £17.00 , F/U £15.00 , Used	£ 5.00
SS19	1955 St. Edward Wmk. (18), SG 540-56 U/M £69.00 , Mtd. £22.00 , F/U £13.50 , Used	£ 5.00
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SS28	1969 January 2/- Machin Booklet, Rare composition, SG NP31 (Cat. £275)	£125.00
SS29	1969 £1 Cook Booklet – Rare Stapled Edition, SG ZP1 (Cat. £400)	£220.00
SS30	1972 Machin £1 Black 'IMPERF PAIR', SG 831bvar	£ 49.00
SS31	1982 Machin 12½p 'IMPERF PAIR', SG X898a (Cat. £120)	£ 33.00
SS32	1983 Machin 16p 'IMPERF PAIR', SG X949a (Cat. £200)	£ 48.00
SS33	1984 Northern Ireland 17p Type II, SG NI43Ea U/M £99.00 , F/U £69.00 , Used	£ 29.00
SS34	1984 Scotland 31p Type II, SG S51Ea U/M £99.00 , F/U £79.00 , Used	£ 39.00
SS35	1984 Framas Complete, 32 values (½p to 16p), Post & Go Forerunners(Cat. £19) U/M	£ 5.95
SS36	1984 Wales 17p Type II, SG W44Ea U/M £33.00 , F/U £17.00 , Used	£ 3.50
SS37	1993 £10 Britannia, SDG 1658 U/M £12.95 , F/U £4.50 , Used £1.75 , Spacefillers	£ 0.75
SS38	1994 Postage Dues (9), SG D102-110 U/M £16.00 , FDC £18.00 , Pres. Pack	£ 18.00
SS39	1997 Enschede Castles (4), SG 1993-96 U/M £24.00 , F/U £5.50 , Used	£ 2.50
SS40	1998 Machin 1st/2nd Dagger Die Cut Perfs, SG 2039-40 U/M	£380.00
SS41	1999 Machin 20p (2 Band) 'IMPERF PAIR', SG Y1687a (Cat. £425)	£ 79.00
SS42	2003 Non-Intaglio Machins to £5 (4), SG Y1746-49 U/M £13.50 , F/U	£ 9.95
SS43	2004 Machin 35p 'IMPERF PAIR', SG Y1700 (Cat. £375)	£120.00
SS44	2004 Machin 40p 'IMPERF PAIR', SG Y17aa (Cat. £850)	£220.00
SS45	2012 Olympics (29), SG 3342-70 U/M £25.00 , F/U £33.00 , Sheetlets of 6 U/M	£150.00
SS46	2012 Paralympics (34), SG 3372-3405 U/M £37.00 , F/U £42.00 , Sheetlets of 2 U/M	£ 70.00
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SS49	2014 Classic Locomotives (2nd Issue) ex. Booklet, SG 3570-77 U/M or F/U	£ 9.50
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Variety in Basutoland

Basutoland – once a British Crown colony and now known as Lesotho – really is a remarkable place, writes stamp expert Dickon Pollard, as he provides a quick guide to the varieties on offer to collectors of the country's stamps

Basutoland was, essentially, the creation of one man, King Moshoeshe I. He performed a feat beyond the British for years in frustrating the Boers and, eventually, forcing them to accept the existence of his small country. His people were not originally native to the area but were migrants from much further north. This explains the presence of the crocodile on the design of the King George V and VI definitives; no crocodile has ever been seen anywhere near Lesotho (as it is now called), but it was the totem of the people in their northern home. The design of the stamps shows a crocodile in front of a view from Maseru towards the interior of the country, reached by a pass called 'Lancers' Gap', which is visible at the centre of the design. Historically, it seems that the lancers in question never went anywhere near this gap, so we have a design with a non-native animal in front of a misnomer!

Much of the collector interest in early Basutoland is in the postal history, not unnaturally, since the first Basutoland stamps didn't appear until 1933. Prior to then, Cape of Good Hope and South African stamps were used and commercial covers are desirable; there was not a large literate population, despite the rapidly-increasing influence of missionaries and traders. Postmarks from the village post offices are a wonderful field.

The King George VI definitives shared the fantasy design of the George V and, like them, were printed by Waterlow. It can be a very simple set to collect, Gibbons listing no shades at all, and one plate variety. *Commonwealth* lists quite a few shades, a fair reflection of the number of printings, but Waterlows achieved quite a high degree of consistency in the inks used. There is



From top: 1938 and 1940 1d printings; and 1938 and 1940 10/- printings. The crocodile on the stamps isn't actually found in what is now Lesotho, but is a symbol of the migrant locals

not much in the way of Plate numbers and there are small variations in the gauge of the perforating machines used for the issue.

There are two unique features of Waterlow printings of this time. The first is their re-entering of impressions, which often leaves a characteristic 'whiskery' appearance to the re-entered lines; the second is their apparent inability to eliminate 'T' guidemarks – those 'T'-shaped marks which should have been burnished off the plate but occasionally got left behind.

The main interest in the ½d value is in the shades. Often, the apparent variations of colour are not so much due to the ink as to the paper.

The same colour ink can look very different on thick creamy paper and thin white paper. It is easy to build up a range of shades.

The Coronation set boasts no

varieties I know of, but I expect there are some to be found by the keen-eyed student. The Victory set is another matter, being overprinted on the South African Victory set. Undoubtedly the best is the 'barbed wire' variety on the 1d at R9/6. With the growing popularity of the Victory issues, it might be an idea to seek these varieties out now. The Royal Visit set was massively over-bought at the time of issue and is still available in sheets; I have yet to learn of any items of interest regarding this set. The UPU set is also readily available, and the only items I would recommend looking for here would be Plate blocks.

Postage Dues were introduced in 1933, and the simple design continued until 1956. There is a clash between SG and Commonwealth's description of the colours for the 1d value. SG records the 1933 issue as carmine, with a scarlet shade appearing in 1938. Commonwealth records a carmine-red stamp in 1937. Undoubtedly there are variations, but this is another case where more study is required. The stamp is recorded as appearing on rough paper in 1947, but gut feeling tells me this is very late, and it should be possible to find examples postmarked earlier. The chalky paper printings had the errors of watermark – Crown missing and St Edward's Crown – common to many of the 1950s printings of the Dues. The chalky 2d has the R9-10/6 large 'd' in value, caused by the plate being exposed to the image twice in error.

Founded in 1990 by Stuart Babbington and Dickon Pollard, Murray Payne Ltd are the world's leading dealers (buying and selling) in British Commonwealth stamps from the reign of King George VI. Find out more at the website: www.murraypayne.com



Below: the 1938 and 1940 2d printings

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Royal celebrations

We are now accustomed to the fact that every milestone in the lives of senior members of the Royal Family will be marked with a special issue of stamps. This for many years was certainly not so, as Paul Brittain explains

The 'Jubilee' definitives of 1887 are so dubbed, not because – as often popularly thought – they marked Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, but simply they were first issued in that year. The Coronations of both King Edward VII and King George V were not celebrated by stamps: the first British commemoratives did not appear until 1924, well into KGV's reign.

However, for the Silver Jubilee of King George V, it was the Colonial Office that suggested a set of stamps be issued, not only by Great Britain but also by the Colonial Empire. The Post Office was initially reluctant, citing the fact that Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee had not been marked by special stamps, and that the King, despite being an avid collector, had expressed a dislike for commemorative stamps. Interestingly, Sir Edward Bacon, Keeper of the King's Philatelic Collection, raised the matter with His Majesty, who was 'warmly favourable' to the idea. A year before the Jubilee, the Post Office agreed to participate in the celebrations by issuing a special set of four stamps.

In sharp contrast, ambitious plans were in hand for a series to mark the Coronation of King Edward VIII. These clearly were aborted on the announcement of the Abdication. However, the date of 12 May, 1937 that had been agreed for KEVIII's Coronation was kept for that of King George VI. For the Post Office the priority was to produce new definitive stamps, so it was not until February 1937 that the possibility of Coronation stamps could be suggested. In the event, just a single stamp, paying the inland letter rate, was issued.

Perhaps the most defining moment came with the wedding of Princess Elizabeth to the Duke of Edinburgh



on 20 November, 1947. Stating that 'the time factor did not allow for the provision of a special postage stamp', a slogan postmark was used instead to mark the occasion. The public was not impressed, especially as both Australia and Canada managed to produce special stamps. As a way of appeasing the popular view, consideration was given to issuing a stamp to mark the birth of the couple's first baby. At the time the Treasury certainly favoured such stamps – earning dollars was essential following the War. The King was approached and supported the idea, and was shown potential designs. However, soon after, the idea was dropped, although no reason was given.

From left: the design prepared by Percy Metcalfe for the birth of the first baby to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh; one of the essays prepared for Edward VIII's coronation which, of course, did not take place

Now jubilees and the subsequent anniversaries of the Coronation, significant birthdays, royal weddings, wedding anniversaries and memorials are worthy of stamps. These often test the ingenuity of the Post Office in developing fresh design ideas. For a time it was Jeffery Matthews whose designs were most frequently used.

Some designs have required special preparation. The family group photograph for the Queen Mother's 100th birthday was taken the previous year. For the sixtieth anniversary of the Coronation, a new portrait of the Queen was commissioned from Nicky Philipps. Over the years the photographic libraries of the Queen

Throughout the present reign the idea of stamps linked with Royalty has grown apace, and they remain very popular

Fortunately, there were stamps to mark the Royal Silver Wedding of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on 28 April, 1948: again the Treasury welcomed the revenue.

Throughout the present reign the idea of stamps linked with Royalty has grown apace, and they remain popular. It was a slow start, the Coronation in 1953 being followed by the Investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969.

have been well scoured.

There is no doubt the Royal Family will remain a strong focus for British stamps for many more years.

Information for this article has been obtained from the Stamp Histories available through the British Postal Museum & Archive.

Images courtesy of the BPMA, copyright Royal Mail.



JERSEY

Great War changes



The second part of Jersey's stamp series commemorating the events of the First World War focuses on how dramatic change was required in order to win the war, most notably in the development of trench warfare.

It wasn't long before the British army realised the use of horse manoeuvred artillery and cavalry to support troops had become ineffective. A new way was needed to break the deadlock and provide close armoured support for the infantry, and this need prompted the continued development and use of tanks.

These armoured vehicles saw limited action during the Battle of the Somme at Flers-Courcelette in September 1916 and became involved in a massed assault at the Battle of Cambrai in November of the following year.

Communication developed during the war too. The new military field telephone with wired communications enabled orders and details of engagements to be exchanged at speed and over greater distance.

Meanwhile, in the air, tethered observation balloons were used to view troop movements over the horizon, and the recently developed aeroplane became increasingly essential for observation. At sea, faster, more heavily armed ships were beginning to be used, and the introduction of the submarine added danger and the need for new camouflage techniques to obscure the site of ships on the horizon. In the trenches, uniforms were adapted to disguise soldiers, using colours such as khaki and smoke grey.

Jersey's six stamps illustrate these rapid developments, while a miniature sheet

highlights the life of Jerseyman Flight Lieutenant Charles Stanley Mossop DSC who, in 1917 whilst operating off the French coast, became the first man to sink an enemy submarine from the air, an action for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. In August 1918, whilst on an aerial photo-reconnaissance mission, he decided to stop off at Jersey and pay a visit to his parents in St Helier, in doing so becoming the first Jerseyman to land a plane in Jersey. Mossop was tragically killed in a flying accident in France two days later.

Stamp details

Issue date: 4 August, 2015

Design: Illustrated by Chris Ede

Printer: Cartor Security Printers, offset lithography

Stamp size: 30mm deep x 48mm wide

Miniature Sheet size:

70mm deep x 131mm wide

Stamp within Miniature Sheet size:

30mm deep x 48mm wide

47p - armoured tank

57p - trench communications

64p - camouflage ships

73p - uniform

85p - aerial intelligence

95p - trench tactics



GUERNSEY

450 years as a Fief to the Crown

Both Jersey and Guernsey are issuing stamps to mark Sark's 450 years as a Fief to the Crown. The island lies at the centre of the Channel Islands and is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. A set of five stamps and a miniature sheet of two stamps are being issued by Guernsey, while Jersey will issue a single value miniature sheet.

Sark's unique history

is interwoven with folklore and for centuries the tiny island had little to do with its larger neighbours. The first links were forged with Jersey, the largest Channel Island some nine miles to the south, when Helier de Carteret, Seigneur of St Ouen, devised a plan that established a structure of life on Sark, some of which remains in place today.

Guernsey's colourful stamps records key events from the island's intriguing history, including when St Magloire landed on Sark, in 565AD,





ISLE OF MAN

All aboard please!

The Isle of Man are taking stamp collectors on a nostalgic journey this month, with a set of stamps showcasing some of the Manx buses that made the island a smaller place in the 1930s and 1940s.

Featuring illustrations by Isle of Man artist Peter Hearsey, the stamps are the second part in a set, with the first issued back in 1999, proving that, as the philatelic bureau remind us: 'like buses, good stamps are worth the wait!'

The six new stamps feature colourful drawings of Manx buses from both the Douglas Corporation and Road Services fleets; this year marks the fortieth anniversary of the amalgamation of these firms to form Isle of

Man National Transport.

The illustrations picture the buses at various locations around the island, from the Omnibus Depot in Douglas to Ramsey Town Hall.

Highlights of the set include the Leyland Cub KPZI on the 44p value, which was in use from 1936 onwards. Thanks to the war, many of the buses, which could be operated by one person, were driven by women. Sadly none of these vehicles have survived and the Omnibus Depot in Douglas, also pictured on the stamp, is also lost, having been demolished.

The Leyland Titan PDI was the Isle of Man's first double-decker bus and appears on the £1.47 value. Introduced in 1946, the buses' additional floor was not initially used to capacity with regulations prohibiting the use of some of the upper-deck seating. Once regulations caught up with the technology, more of the buses were introduced, but sadly, none survive today.



Stamp details

Issue date: 15 July, 2015

Design: EJC Design

Printer: Cartor, offset lithography

Stamp size: 36mm x 36mm

Perforations: 13

44p – Leyland Cub KPZI

60p – Leyland/MCW Olympic HR40

77p – Leyland Tiger PSI

93p – Daimler VWA6

£1.47 – Leyland Titan PDI

£1.86 – AEC Regent I



from Brittany with 62 monks to establish a Christian monastery. Saint Magloire is said to have cured the sick, resuscitated a drowned fisherman and rescued a man from a giant conger eel's jaws, however, the 42p stamp depicts him in his best-known role as a dragon slayer. Legend tells that he subdued the beast with his stole then led it to the cliff edge where the dragon fell to its death.

The 57p stamp moves on to the sixteenth century when French writer François Rebelais described Sark as a place of 'pirates, thieves, brigands, murderers and assassins.' With Sark clearly visible from his home in Jersey, Helier de Carteret was concerned about the continuous risk posed by these pirates and proposed to Elizabeth I that he colonise the smaller island, securing it for the Crown and

on 6 August, 1565. Elizabeth I is seen on the £2 value on the miniature sheet.

In the 1830s silver and copper mining operations began on Little Sark employing 250 people at their height. The venture failed dramatically bankrupting Seigneur Pierre Le Pelley in 1852 who sold the Fief of Sark to the Collings family whose descendants have held the title ever since. The 77p stamp shows some of the ruined mine buildings that could be seen until recently.



Stamp details

Issue date: 22 July, 2015

Design: Nick Shewring

Printer: Lowe-Martin, offset lithography

Stamp size: 30mm deep x 40mm wide

Perforations: 13.3

Miniature sheet:

80mm deep x 110mm wide

Miniature sheet stamp size:

40mm deep x 32mm wide and 26mm deep x 40mm wide

Miniature sheet stamp perforations: 13.3

42p – Saint Magloire slaying dragon

57p – Pirates on Sark

62p – Captain François Breuil and French soldiers

68p – Le Manoir, the home of Helier de Carteret

77p – Ruined mine buildings

£2 – Queen Elizabeth I

£1 – Elizabethan bronze cannon

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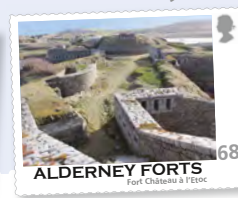
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'76 ANTIGUA	DEFINS: ALL THE BIRDS	(6)	M 245P	'68 HUNGARY	GARDEN FLOWERS	(8)	U 75P
'46 AUSTRALIA	VICTORY	(93)	M 55P	'62 HONG KONG	1.30, 2.5, \$10	(4)	U 165P
'46 BAHAWALPUR	VICTORY	(1)	U 170P	'59 INDONESIA	ANIMAL PROT.	(6)	M 125P
'70 BARBUDA	MONARCHS PART SET	(7)	M 100P	'62 INDONESIA	ASIAN GAMES	(24)	U 90P
'74 BARBUDA	\$5 FRIGATE BIRD	(1)	M 145P	'67 KATHIRI	PAINTINGS M/LISA ETC	(4)	U 69P
'76 BARBUDA	BIRDS	(6)	M 165P	'75 KOREA (N)	FISH	(6)	U 79P
'81 BULGARIA	DOGS	(6)	U 66P	'75 KOREA (N)	FRUIT BLOSSOMS	(5)	U 75P
'88 BULGARIA	CATS	(4)	U 54P	'91 LAUS	LOCOMOTIVES	(5)	U 95P
'80 CAYMAN IS	20C HERON, 519A	(1)	M 50P	'60 MALDIVES	ROME OLYMPICS	(8)	M 78P
'81 CENTRAL AFRICA	DIANA'S WEDDING	(4)	U 55P	'71 MEXICO	"LUNA 69"	(3)	M 125P
'80 CHILE	BIRD-CONDOR	(1)	M 45P	'79 MOZAMBIQUE	LOCOMOTIVES	(6)	U 95P
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'81 CUBA	FISH	(6)	U 68P	'64 NIGER	TELSTAR	(2)	M 150P
'96 CUBA	REPTILES	(6)	U 145P	'37 NIVE	CORONATION	(3)	M 85P
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'67 FRANCE	ART ISSUE 1742/5	(4)	U 55P	'84 POLAND	CLEMATIS	(6)	U 78P
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'95 GUINEA-REP	WILD ANIMALS	(5)	U 66P				
'97 GUINEA-REP	LOCOMOTIVE	(6)	U 88P				
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Sark – 450 Years as a fief to the Crown

Issue date: 6 August 2015

On 6 August 1565, Helier de Carteret, the Seigneur of the Jersey parish of St.Ouen, was granted the island of Sark by Queen Elizabeth I in return for protection against pirates and French invasion. Sark became an inheritable fief and the De Carterets remained Lords of Sark until 1720. A special Miniature Sheet featuring the De Carteret Coat of Arms with a backdrop of the family's historic Jersey residence, St.Ouen's Manor, commemorates the 450th anniversary of the grant.



Victory & Liberation Sir Winston Churchill

Issue date: 10 July 2015

Second
in a two
part series



Six stamps mark 75 years since the Battle of Britain. The Miniature Sheet features an intaglio portrait of Sir Winston Churchill, created by master engraver Martin Mörck and based on an original photograph by Yousuf Karsh.

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The Great War – 100 Years

Part Two: Change

Issue date: 4 August 2015

This second part in a five-part series commemorating the events of World War I focuses on change. Six stamps illustrate some of the areas that experienced rapid development and change during the period 1914-1918.



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End of the line for the line-engraved

The line-engraved stamps of Great Britain are some of the best loved and most intensively studied issues in the world. And yet in 1880, Britain turned its back on them. David Bailey investigates why

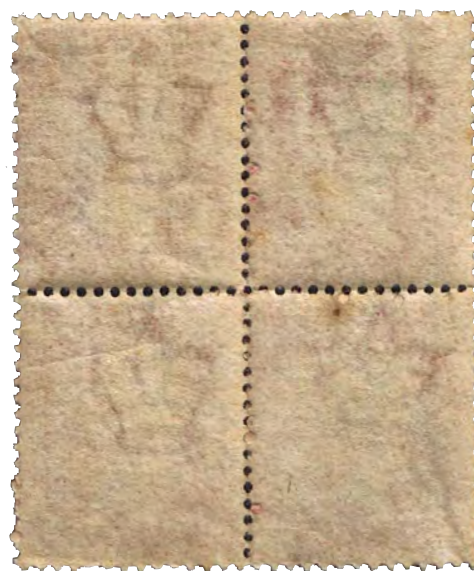
By the mid 1870s, the penny plate numbers were nearing the 200s and the twopennies were up to plate 15. The series looked as if it might go on forever. But in a few years, everything changed.

These stamps had been produced in essentially the same way since 1840. But it was a craft process in an industrial age. Line-engraving was great for producing images with intense colour and a wealth of fine detail, but it was not ideal for volume production. Attempts to mechanise the process in the 1850s had failed and it was still manual work. The paper was handmade – of variable thickness – and supplied untrimmed. The sheets were printed wet, so they tended to shrink. And the degree of wetness varied from sheet to sheet, so the shrinkage was uneven. This meant that the printed sheets had to be sorted by hand before being fed into the perforating machines.

As far as the public was concerned, the stamps were looking old-fashioned. Britain had progressed enormously from the semi-rural economy of the 1840s and tastes had changed. The ink came off



Above: plate 87 was put to press on 7.3.64. From that year, the stamps were doubly-gummed to improve adhesion to letters



Right: production of line engraved stamps continued throughout 1879. Plate 225, the last 1d plate, was put to press on October 27 (courtesy Andrew Vaughan Philatelics)

on peoples' hands, which was unpopular. There was also a problem with the gum. 'Why is a schoolboy like a penny stamp?' ran a popular joke. 'Because they both need a good licking before they'll stick to their letters.' Stamps had received a double coating of gum from 1864. But this just made the sheets thicker without totally curing the problem. In 1876, 60,000 penny stamps were found loose in mailbags and letterboxes.

Contrasts and comparisons

The penny postage stamps were frequently compared, unfavourably, with the penny receipt stamps which De La Rue had been printing since 1853. De La Rue used letterpress, or surface printing, which lacked the fine detail of line-engraving but was more suitable for mass-production.



The ink dried mostly by evaporation, rather than absorption, so the paper could be thinner. It was also machine made, dimensionally stable and supplied ready-trimmed to an exact size. Meanwhile, De La Rue had developed a gum which was white,



The 2d series ended with plate 15 (courtesy Andrew Vaughan Philatelics)

Britain had progressed enormously from the semi-rural economy of the 1840s and the stamps were looking old-fashioned



Imprimaturs are known from all stamps in the 1880 set. This is the halfpenny in dark green (courtesy Andrew Vaughan Philatelics), SG 165 (courtesy Victor Neale)

clear and offered excellent qualities of adhesion.

Surface printing was being used for the books, magazines and newspapers that catered for a newly-literate public, so there was steady progress in the improvement of processes, papers and inks. The stamps of France had been surface printed since 1849 using plates mass-produced by electrotyping. In 1879,

savings in time and labour costs.

By the mid 1870s, De La Rue were printing telegraph stamps, revenue stamps, higher values to £5 and issues for the Colonies as well. But all of this was dwarfed by the size of the halfpenny to twopenny contracts held by Perkins Bacon. And as these contracts came up for renewal, De La Rue had them squarely in their sights.

The penny postage stamps were frequently compared, unfavourably, with the penny receipt stamps printed by De La Rue

De La Rue developed a solution of iron, now lost, with which copper plates could be electroplated, or 'steeld'. This greatly extended their life. For instance, plates 4 to 16 of the 2½d, in rosy mauve, were printing 35,000 sheets of stamps each. After 1879, plates 21-23 of the same stamp in blue were printing an estimated 130,000 sheets. Finally, in 1880, De La Rue acquired steam-driven presses, which meant massive

An old problem returns

The issue that triggered the switch was one that Perkins Bacon thought was settled years ago: the cleaning and re-use of cancelled stamps. The chemistry of solvents had progressed enormously since the days of the Rainbow Trials. And in May 1878, the Board of Inland Revenue wrote to Perkins Bacon that 'by the use of a certain fluid, which it is not desirable to mention, the obliteration can be perfectly removed with very little trouble... and without leaving any marks of the operation behind.' The letter continued that 'no time should be lost in applying a remedy, and this will be found in having the stamps of low values made precisely in the same way as those of higher value, both as regards the mode of manufacture and the printing in fugitive colours.' Perkins Bacon were



The two methods

Line engraved printing is also known as recess-printing, intaglio or copperplate (the French call it *taille-douce*, which sounds much more romantic.) The image is cut into the plate. The plate is inked and the surplus ink wiped off, so that the ink is resting in the grooves. A sheet of paper is then laid on the plate and pressure applied, so that the paper is pressed into the grooves to absorb all the ink. The plate is then cleaned and re-inked ready for the next impression and the printed sheet allowed to dry. Under magnification, the image area is clear, sharp and even. It may also have a slightly raised profile compared to the un-inked parts of the paper.



The Jacob Perkins' press used to print the Penny Black and the 2d Blue, now on display at the British Library (image: takomabelot)

Surface printing is also known as letterpress or typography. The image areas are raised up from the rest of the plate and a film of ink is applied by a roller. A sheet of paper is then laid on the top of the plate and the ink transferred. The plate can then be re-inked for the next impression. This sounds relatively straightforward but in practice, it took considerable care and skill to level each plate on the printing press, so that all parts of it received an even coating of ink from one pass of the rollers. Under magnification, the outer edges of the image area are sharp but the colour may be less intense inside them. In the 1880s it was by far the most popular printing method, being used for everything from mass circulation newspapers to prestige books; the steel engravings of the day could reproduce incredibly fine detail while being straightforward to produce.

then asked if they could produce stamps by surface printing and if so, for how much.

As briefs from clients go, this could hardly be clearer; the Board was sold on surface printing. But in reply, Perkins Bacon re-iterated the advantages of line-engraving and its resistance to forgery and asked for time to test some fugitive inks that could be recess printed.

Various colour trials were

Left: most printed copies of the halfpenny stamp are fuzzy or blurred. This superb plate 8 is the exception (courtesy Andrew Vaughan Philatelics)

submitted during 1878 – but it was difficult to produce an ink which would be fugitive to solvents without rubbing off in use. Trial printings of the penny stamps were produced in shades of mauve pink and of the twopenny stamps in a pale ultramarine: the Royal Philatelic Collection has some surviving examples. It can't have helped the Perkins Bacon case that one ink formulation was found to contain sufficient arsenic to be dangerous. The Board were unimpressed and on 23 December they wrote to Perkins Bacon giving six months notice of the termination of their contracts to print the three 1d – 2d values and twelve months notice in respect of the halfpenny.

In April 1879, seven printing firms were invited to tender for the printing of the penny stamps. Perkins Bacon were included out of courtesy and this time, they submitted proposals for surface-printed stamps. But their designs were not appreciated and their inks were found to be insufficiently fugitive.

Despite being clear favourites, De La Rue pulled out all the stops to secure the contract. They knew their inks were fugitive; the government chemist had already tested them before their use was authorised for the higher values. But they also submitted 24 stamp designs, with four different head dies in six different frames.

Inevitably, the penny contract was awarded to De La Rue and forty years of philatelic history came to an end.

There still remained the contract to print the halfpenny, threehalfpenny and twopenny stamps, which was also up for renewal. In 1880, Perkins Bacon



The new Penny Red. Commentators at the time were appalled by the coarseness of the engraving, which was blamed on steam-driven presses (image courtesy Victor Neale)

The new three halfpenny stamp (courtesy Andrew Vaughan Philatelics)

The 2d pale rose (courtesy Andrew Vaughan Philatelics)

The new 5d Indigo paid the rates to India and China (courtesy Andrew Vaughan Philatelics)

The old three halfpenny was adapted from the design for the 1 penny (courtesy Andrew Vaughan Philatelics)



were invited to tender for printing these stamps by surface printing and duly submitted designs, colour trials and costs. De La Rue, in effect, declined the invitation to tender; they had a bigger idea. The details are complex – and fully explained in WA Wiseman's book *The De La Rue Years Vol 1* – but in essence, they looked at all the work they were doing for the Inland Revenue. And the size of the penny contract gave them sufficient leeway to offer the Board substantial cost reductions

prevailing at the Post Office. They thought that check letters looked old fashioned, spoilt the design and were ineffectual in preventing fraud. The Board of Inland Revenue concurred and the remaining four stamps were issued without them – including the new 5d rate to pay postage to India and China.

This arrangement would be reversed for the Lilac and Green stamps that followed (as detailed in an article in the April 2015 issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*).

There was a new mood prevailing at the Post Office; they thought check letters looked old fashioned, spoilt the design and were ineffectual in preventing fraud

on many parts of it – including the other three low value stamps. As a consideration, they asked that the length of their contract be doubled from seven years to fourteen. The Board settled for ten years and the deal was sealed. Strictly speaking, the consolidated contract bent the rules of government procurement, if not actually breaking them. But despite questions in the House of Commons, it was allowed to stand.

The result was the short set of five values produced in 1880. For the first time in decades there were no visible plate numbers and only the penny stamp had check letters. This stamp was the first to be developed. But when it came to the other low values, there was a new mood

Looking back from here

Surviving correspondence allows us to study the renegotiation of these contracts from both points of view. Wiseman's useful book *De La Rue Years* has already been cited and Sir Edward Denny Bacon's book *The Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain* is digitised at the website: Philatelics.org which also includes full details on all of Great Britain's line engraved printing plates.

With hindsight, Perkins Bacon's inability to see that the game was up for line engraved seems curious. But even if they had realised, it is not certain what they could have done. De La Rue had a 25-year head start in security printing by letterpress – and no other firm was going to catch up overnight.



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The flight along the Nile

Just over 100 years ago, French aviator and stunt flyer Marc Pourpe began a daring flight along the river Nile in a small monoplane. Today there is little to remind us of his achievement, but a rare item in the British Library ensures his feat is not forgotten

Pourpe's grand, daring 2,000km journey took him from Cairo to Khartoum and included a stretch across the scorching Nubian desert. With few facilities for aircraft to land, despite the flight being part of an Aviation Week taking place in Heliopolis, near Cairo, Pourpe and his mechanic Gervais Raoul Lufbery took great risks to complete the flight and, happily, completed the journey without mishap.

As with many of these pioneering flights, the pilot carried with him a selection of post, making this the first postal flight in Egypt and creating a handful of souvenirs that are today highly sought after by collectors and historians. One such souvenir can be found in the Fitzgerald Collection, part of the British Library Philatelic Collections.

The card was posted at the town of Atbara, located in River Nile State in northeastern Sudan, and was flown over the most difficult stage of the journey, across the harsh desert, to Wadi Halfa where, according to the notes accompanying the card, the Nile route was resumed. As the former owner's notes explain, the card features a special stamp created by the pilot before his



departure: 'He had had the especial [sic] postmark stamp which appears on this card made in Cairo before he started, and he carried a number of letters during the trip. This card he brought with him from Atbara to Wadi Halfa on his return journey to the north, and delivered it to me at Halfa where I was stationed at the time.'

The item is addressed to an AP Cooke Esq, in Halfa, and features a violet double-circled air cachet and the text 'POSTE AERIENNE L.N.A. MARC POURPE 1913-4 CAIRO KHARTOUM', the letters LNA standing for Ligue Nationale Aérienne. The reverse of the card features a rough pen and ink route of the flight, 'illustrated with fancy planes in flight'.

A second card is held at the Library,

apparently carried on a subsequent flight Pourpe made after his Nile trip. Addressed to a French official at Port Said, the cover is date-stamped 16 February, 1914. The accompanying notes explain: 'Before leaving Egypt after his romantic flight up the Nile, Marc Pourpe carried out a remarkable postal flight from Cairo to Port Said, flying over the Suez Canal... He had been entrusted with a small mail and carried out his mission with triumphal success.'

The notes add: 'Though this pioneer airmail... was commented on in foreign papers, it remained for long an uncatalogued feature of his great achievement.' It is reassuring to know philatelic items such as our illustrated example can shed light on these forgotten tales from another era.

The nature of Pourpe and Lufbery's daring flights quickly changed in nature in the subsequent months as the First World War began. Pourpe was killed during a reconnaissance mission over the Somme in December 1914, while his colleague Lufbery enjoyed a series of successes during the war, becoming a celebrated pilot and, in 1917, becoming a Major in the US Army Air Service. Sadly, he was shot down by a German aircraft in May 1918, just months before the conflict came to an end.



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Beauties among the 'uglies'

Ed Fletcher takes a sideways look at the postage stamps of the Indian Feudatory States, which were often frowned upon by childhood collectors, and suggests they demand further attention

Postage stamps of the Indian Feudatory States are currently experiencing surges of interest on two fronts. Firstly, modern middle-class Indians have begun to collect the stamps and postal history of their own nation. Many do their collecting in India where most of the Feudatory States morphed into states or regions of the Republic of India in 1950 and used national stamps from that year. Substantial numbers of Indians who live and work in Britain add to the crowds who seek their Feudatory States bargains at stamp fairs around the country. And, of course, the entire world now has access to internet stamp dealings.

Above, from left: Palace at Gwalior, India; state elephants of H.H., the Maharaja of Gwalior, superbly decorated, Durbar, Delhi, India (images: Library of Congress)

Right: the Sirmoor elephant that initially caught Ed's eye



The second group taking keener interest in the Indian Feudatory States includes advanced collectors bored with, or despairing of being outbid in, their former specialisation, and now seeking a field that offers huge challenges, yet does

not demand huge prices for very many stamps and covers that possess enough complexities in shade, perforation, design, paper and watermark differences – with reprints and forgeries tossed into the mix for good measure – to keep the most





demanding philatelist happy for years.

A third group, yet to take the slightest interest in the Indian Feudatory States will perhaps recognise themselves in what follows and spend fifteen minutes thumbing through catalogue pages to see if they can spot a beauty or two that might change their minds on the so-called 'Uglies'. It is a pejorative term which can be attributed to an early collector exposed in his or her childhood to opinions such as these:

The Native Indian States have a most amazing conglomeration of dots and dashes surrounding a large and very appropriate question mark.

- *Liverpool Mercury*, 1895

The crude engraving and printing work by native craftsmen on stamps of the Indian Native States has found little favour with any but a small coterie of philatelic specialists.

- *Exeter & Plymouth Gazette*, 1928

There are no stamps which can vie with those of the Indian Native States for poverty of design and crudeness of colour.

- *Western Morning News*, 1929

The weird designs seen on the 1876 and 1890 stamps of Poonch, a Native State of India, consisted of hundreds of crude squiggles that represented native writing. Luckily the state decided later to use British India stamps; otherwise we might have had even stranger designs from Poonch.

- *Aberdeen Journal*, 1938

Among leaders of philatelic opinion who shaped youthful minds in those days were purveyors of sixpenny and one-shilling packets purchased via small ads



in publications such as *Boys Own Paper* where they proclaimed 'No India Native States' in the sure and certain knowledge that the exclusion guaranteed greater sales. My own dabbings in schoolboy stamp collecting during the 1950s confirmed similar mind-sets; nobody in the after-school stamp club would take Indian Native States, even as swaps for cigarette cards.

I don't recall anyone in our club using the word 'Feudatory' to describe the examples we never looked at closely as we thrust them into the backs of our albums; and I'm sure the word did not feature in our standard issue school dictionaries. Youngsters today could google the definition in moments, but I'll beat them to it in print with this: think of the word feudal as used to describe the relationship between

Other animals from the 'Uglies' menagerie. States including Bhopal, Jaipur and Soruth issued them

a medieval English king, one of his lords, and the peasants who worked his land in return for their cottages and smallholdings. That's akin to the working feudatory arrangement several hundred Indian native princes entered into with the British Raj; each swore allegiance to our monarch and, in return, ruled his subjects more or less autonomously within his own borders.

The Princely States varied in size and importance; from no more than a few square miles, to one (Hyderabad) the size of England and Scotland combined. Their lands encompassed almost a third of India, and their armies were described as follows in an English newspaper at the start of Edward VII's reign:

India's Private Armies

The world's finest private armies are those of the Indian Feudatory princes owing allegiance to Britain. The Nizam of Hyderabad, for instance, pays, feeds and clothes a splendidly armed and equipped force of nearly eight thousand picked warriors consisting of six regiments of cavalry, six of infantry and four batteries of artillery. [...] The rulers of the 650 great and small native states upkeep between them no fewer than 86,000 armed men, each of whom has to take an oath of allegiance to the Emperor of India (better known to us as King Edward the Seventh) before being permitted to enrol under the banner of his own prince.

- *Shields Daily Gazette* 1904





Some Indian states (Chamba, Faridkot (from 1887), Gwalior, Jind (from 1885), Nabha and Patiala) signed a postal convention with the Raj which allowed them to overprint the stamps and postal stationery of British India with the name of their state. Overprinted Convention States stamps were valid on mail throughout India. Feudatory States rulers, on the other hand, took a different approach and opted for issuing local stamps valid for use within each state's boundaries. Any mail addressed for a destination across the border required additional postage to pay for delivery.

As we know from occasional experiences during postal or transport strikes, even in technologically advanced Britain, stamps that come off local printing presses usually leave much to be desired in terms of design, paper,

The stamps may have been considered ugly by some collectors years ago, but many now command high prices at auction

The stamps demand serious study to work out the many different states and periods, and the varieties to pursue. Could it be that the stamps were often dismissed as 'ugly' when in reality they were simply too demanding for the casual collector?



ink, gum and perforations. Similar problems, greatly magnified by primitive equipment and lack of experience, faced printers in most of the approximately forty Feudatory States that made and used their own stamps. When we look at their early issues most of us can make neither head nor tail of any meaning transmitted by the totally unfamiliar lettering and the foreign words they may or may not be spelling out. If there are images or designs they seem primitive or naive to our western eyes... so we turn away, failing to comprehend and perhaps muttering 'ugly'.

I had not looked at a Feudatory State stamp for years; not until a young nephew of mine showed me his expanding collection of stamps depicting animals. One in particular caught my eye; or more correctly, the eye of one animal caught mine. It was a diminutive

elephant looking at me from a stamp bearing the lettering 'SIRMOOR POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE 1 ANNA'. The denomination suggested India, but I had to look up 'SIRMOOR' to learn that it had been a Feudatory State. Gibbons catalogue added that the stamp was the 1895-1899 recess printing work of Waterlow & Sons. Turning the page to see if Sirmoor had issued other pictorials, I stumbled on two lovely stamps of Soruth worthy of places in an animals collection – a lion and a fine white horse. They were the 1929 work of an Indian printer.

Later I trawled all thirty pages of the Indian Feudatory States and found dozens of attractive pictorials. I urge you to do likewise, and at the same time take a less critical glance at the rest of the offerings. If your curiosity is aroused, try a Wikipedia search on the names of the various states. Their histories and the life stories of the maharajahs who ruled them make fascinating reading. If you are still with my program after those history lessons, type 'Banging the drum for the Ugliers' into a Google search and prepare to meet an army of knowledgeable, articulate and interesting 'Ugliers' fanatics who have all the skills needed to help you see beauty in every 'Ugly'.



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Bill or Ben?

Following the US Post's recent admission that the quote on a stamp celebrating the life of author Maya Angelou was actually written by someone else, Chris West takes a look back at another American stamp error

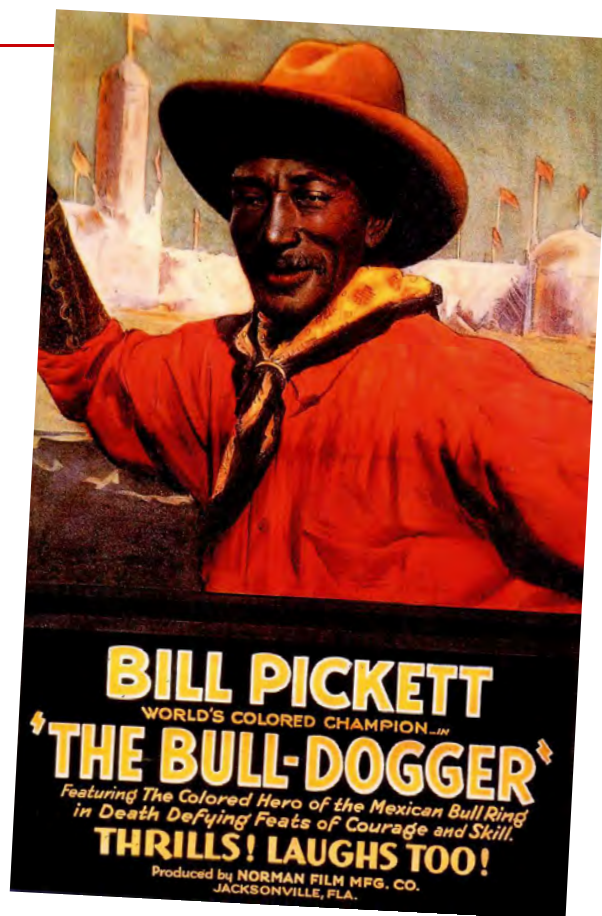
In 1994, the US Postal Service began issuing 'Classic Collections', sheets of twenty stamps on historical or cultural themes. The first was 'Legends of the West', and featured such famous names as Buffalo Bill Cody, Geronimo, Annie Oakley and Wyatt Earp. Bill Pickett, celebrated here, is less well known this side of the Atlantic but is still remembered in the USA: an annual rodeo celebrating the African-American contribution to the Old West is named after him.

One of the categories at the rodeo is 'bulldogging', a technique developed by Pickett. Need to stop a runaway steer? Rather than chase after it with a lasso, bulldoggers get alongside the animal, grab it by the horns and wrestle it to the ground. This is rather easier to write about sitting at a word-processor than to do: the steers can weigh 500 pounds, have long, sharp horns, and aren't always in the mood to be grabbed. Pickett developed the technique when, as a boy, he saw cowboys use bulldogs to stop runaways. (He used to bite the steer on the lip, as the dogs did: modern bulldoggers just unbalance the creature.)

Unlike some other legends featured on the 1994 sheet, Pickett, born in 1870, reached manhood after the heyday of the West. While he was growing up, the old Chisholm Trail along which cattle were herded from Texas to the stockyards on the Transcontinental Railroad began to be fenced over with a new invention, barbed wire, and new railroads were built into the Lone Star State.

The Wild West was half-tamed by the time Pickett was old enough to participate in its life. But as the reality waned, the legend began to grow: rodeos and stunt riding displays became popular around the USA. Pickett and his four brothers created such a display team, and in the early 1900s he joined the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Wild West Show that toured the Americas and Europe. He even made it onto the silver screen, via the 1923 silent *The Bull Dogger*, which advertised 'Death Defying Feats of Courage and Skill'. He died in 1932 after being kicked in the head by a horse.

The stamp, by designer Mark Hess, was based on a well-known portrait on display at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado. Five million sheets were printed and



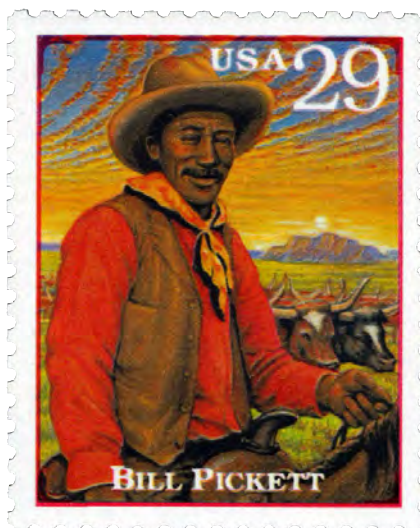
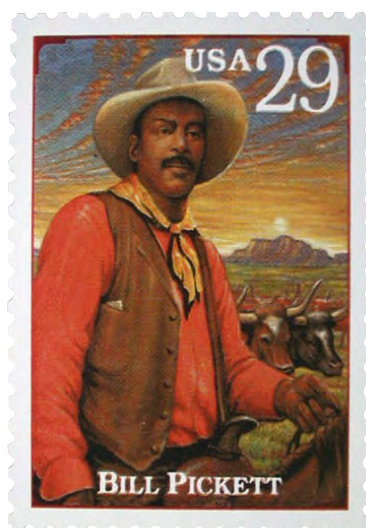
Bill Pickett was more of an entertainer than a genuine cowboy, but his skills earned him the status of Wild West legend

distributed to Post Offices around the US – 183 even ended up in the hands of collectors. Shortly before they were due to go formally on sale, a member of the Pickett family contacted the USPS and pointed out that the stamp, shown above, did not feature Bill but his younger brother Ben.

The sheets were recalled. Collectors lucky enough to have ones already began selling them for high prices: the USPS dislikes collectors profiting in this way and announced that it would print 150,000 of the 'wrong' sheets and sell them at face value to collectors (to be selected by lottery). Holders of the original sheets then took the Service to court to prevent this, but the action failed.

The canonical US Scott catalogue values the Ben Pickett sheets at around \$250, but you seem to be able to pick ones up for around \$100 (or a little more if they are in the original envelopes used by the USPS to send them out). Sheets issued later in the year, which correctly feature Bill, can be picked up for around \$10.

This is not the only case of philatelic mistaken identity in the US. In 2011, a stamp was issued featuring the Statue of Liberty. However it turned out to depict a fibreglass replica, actually situated in Las Vegas. Oops!



The US Post scuppered the hopes of many stamp collectors who had spotted their mistake, by issuing thousands more of the incorrect sheets and thus turning a rarity into a common stamp, albeit with an intriguing story to tell



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I can remember the day I found my Father's stamp collection in the bottom drawer of the bureau in the dining room more than 45 years ago. Aged 11, I was excited travelling the world through his stamps. In those days every school had a stamp club and mine was no exception. I took the collection to school and joined the stamp club. When Mr. Armitage (the Chemistry Teacher who ran the club) asked what stamps we collected I said "Wurttemberg" – much to everybody's surprise. In fact they were from Austria and the page was misclassified. They were those imperforate 1920's Austrian Newspaper stamps which fascinated me and as everybody now knows are hardly worth anything ... but probably they helped me get started in stamps.

Over following years I found little help in understanding stamps, so much had to be learned the hard-way, which is why my company UPA publishes what I dare to hope are useful articles about collecting and buying and selling stamps. It is my hope that these prove valuable to you and that we may serve you if you decide to contact us ...

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In fact no two stamp dealers are alike. What a truism that is. Once in Amsterdam I made the mistake of admitting to the owner of the stamp shop I was visiting that I was a dealer. In almost perfect English "We Don't sell to Dealers" and he turned his back. So did I - as I left his shop. But over the years I discovered that the only way to succeed in stamps was to create a business of stamp selling systems and join them all together. This is what allows us to handle stamps from literally every single country in the world. Recently in coming articles which I shall call 'Case Studies' the strength of this business model has become apparent.

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Jean Pheulpin (1907-1991)

The artistic talents of French stamp engraver Jean Pheulpin began to be seen on stamps in the early 1950s, and in the ensuing decades he produced an array of beautiful stamps, as Adrian Keppel reveals

Born in Valentigney in the district of Doubs in eastern France, Jean Pheulpin was the son of an industrialist. His father had the good sense to steer him towards a proper education where he could translate his love of art into a decent profession. And so, Pheulpin was soon packed off to spend four years at Boule, the College for Applied Arts in Paris, where he worked with metal and learned the art of engraving.

Pheulpin then spent five more years at the School of Arts in Paris. There he could immerse himself completely in the world of engraving, taking lessons from the engraver Antoine Dezarrois, together with many other students who also went on to become famous French engravers, such as Cheffer, Gandon and Piel.

Pheulpin's career started by teaching drawing at various schools in the Parisian suburbs. He kept this up for many years, with his pupils always being delighted to tell him of his latest stamps which were on show in the various stamp shop windows. But meanwhile he also took on commissions for engravings for



From left: one of the Laotian elephant stamps which won Pheulpin an award; the French Poincaré stamp from 1952

national museums and for the bulletin issued by the Society of Bibliolathy.

After the Second World War, Pheulpin submitted an essay of a portrait of Bossuet, to try and get a position as a stamp engraver. The portrait was made in stamp vignette format and was of a lovely finesse. The postal authorities liked his work and promptly employed him. Pheulpin's first stamp was engraved in 1949 and issued in 1950: the 50f airmail value from the definitive set issued in the Comoro Islands. He also designed it. His first stamp for France followed soon after, in 1951. It was a single value issued for the Popular Pictorial Art Exhibition in Epinal. The subject of the stamp was Saint Nicolas.

Unlike many other French engravers, Pheulpin continued to spend a large amount of time working on stamps for the various French territories. His engravings for Laos, in particular, are a major part of his portfolio. For nearly two decades, the 1950s and 1960s, the vast majority of stamps issued in Laos were engraved by Pheulpin. His Laotian Elephants stamp set, issued in 1958 in Laos, even won him the Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique. While Pheulpin usually worked

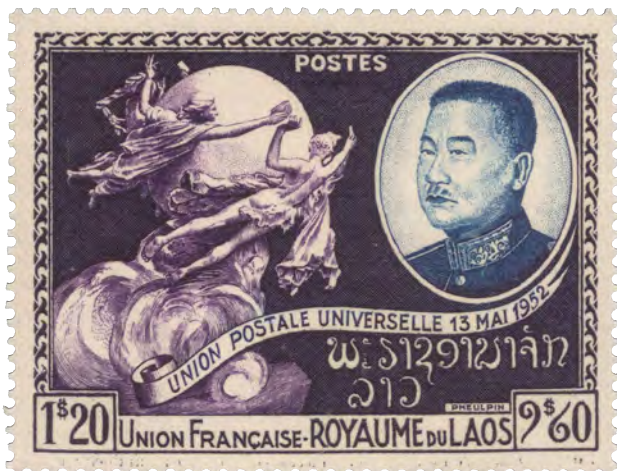
with a small team of engravers in situ, he could always be found in the National Library, researching in further depth the subjects he had to engrave.

In an early interview, Pheulpin said that he enjoyed engraving portraits and landscapes the most. Although he did admit to having great trouble engraving a French stamp depicting Henri Poincaré, issued as part of the National Relief Fund set of 1952. Poincaré was a typical bourgeois man, clad in black with a monocle and a small bow tie; not at all interested in the image he would leave behind for posterity. Pheulpin had to work hard to find a suitable way of portraying the man, discarding an initial portrait-style stamp for one where he has Poincaré reading a book.

As much as he loved it, Pheulpin did concede engraving was often very hard work: peering constantly through microscopic magnifiers, creating lines which had to be fine, compact and deep enough to be still visible after having been copied several times; from master die to transfer roller, from roller to printing plate and from plate to stamp paper. Time was another major aspect and Pheulpin is quoted as having stated that he had to work 79 hours a week when completing his engravings for the 1952 set to mark the admission of Laos into the UPU. Yet, when asked whether he wasn't afraid to damage his eyesight, he referred to a professor at his former art school who was still engraving at the age of 93!

Though Pheulpin did not quite make it to that same old age, he did in all engrave some 650 stamps, the last of which were issued just days after his 81st birthday in 1988, being a French Polynesian set on medicinal plants.

The engraving for the 1952 UPU set issued in Laos



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Italian Cyrenaica

Of all the North African countries, Libya offers some of the best variety stamps for collectors, writes Michael Adkins, in his popular guide to former stamp-issuing countries or territories

Historically, the region of Libya was separated into three major regions: Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and the desert area of Fezzan.

For about 350 years, Libya was controlled by the Ottoman Empire. As Italy desired to become a colonial power, they signed a secret pact in 1902 with France agreeing to not interfere with the other as they invaded areas of North Africa. For the next ten years, Italy did little to realise the 'opportunity', however they launched an invasion in the region on 29 September, 1911.

As full scale war broke out, the superior naval power of Italy aided the Italian capture of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, Fezzan and the Dodecanese Islands in the Aegean Sea.

The Italian victories encouraged other nations to attack a weakened Ottoman Empire. On 12 October, 1912, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and Montenegro allied together and launched attacks in Ottoman-held areas of the Balkans starting the first Balkan war. In order to protect territory closer to home, the Ottomans quickly ended the war in Libya by ceding Libya to Italy and allowing Italian 'administration' of the Dodecanese Islands. The agreement was ratified in the 18 October, 1912, Treaty of Ouchy.

The Italians began setting up an administrative structure in the region, but as the First World War broke out, they withdrew the bulk of their troops,



From left: issued on 16 October, 1934, for the Second Colonial Arts Exhibition in Naples, these stamps were actually issued after the official dissolution of Cyrenaica; issued on 1 June, 1926, the Colonial Institute stamp shared a common design with other Italian Colonies in Africa (Eritrea, Tripolitania, Oltre Giuba, and Italian Somalia); issued on 8 August, 1932, this beautiful Air Post stamp features a tribesman on camel with an airplane flying overhead. This tranquil scene hides the true situation of brutality happening across the Colony during that time



only to maintain control of a few coastal towns. This allowed control of the bulk of the country to the local Senussi tribes. After the war, Italy essentially needed to re-take the region as the local tribes' fiercely resisted their rule. On 17 May, 1919 Cyrenaica was proclaimed as a colony, but it would take many difficult years for the Italians to gain proper power.

While Tripolitania was quickly subdued by Italian forces, Senussi tribes in Cyrenaica, led by Omar al-Mukhtar, put up strong resistance. As Mussolini and the fascists assumed control in Italy, the Italians resorted to brutal tactics against the tribal people of Cyrenaica. Executions, sealing wells and dropping people from planes were, reportedly, commonplace. Beginning in 1930, the Italians forced 100,000 men, women and children into concentration camps where most are believed to have died. Ultimately al-Mukhtar was captured and hanged in 1931, while Italian operations in Cyrenaica probably resulted in the deaths of one-half to two-thirds of the population.

On 1 January, 1934, Tripolitania and Cyrenaica along with the Military Territory of Fezzan were combined to form the single Italian Colony of Libya. The colony lasted until the Second World War, when British troops eventually drove all Italian and German forces out of Libya in February, 1943.

Throughout the period of the individual colonies, Tripolitania and Cyrenaica issued separate commemorative, air post and authorised delivery stamps.

However, definitive, parcel post, postage

due and express stamps were combined and issued under the name of 'Libia'.

The first stamps for Cyrenaica, were issued on 24 October, 1923, by overprinting the four stamps in the Italian 'Propaganda for the Faith' series with 'CIRENAICA' in black. Over the life of the colony, many different Italian commemorative sets continued to be overprinted in various colours and fonts.

Additionally, the Italians overprinted Italian air post semi-postal (charity stamps), air post, official, air post semi-postal special delivery and authorised delivery stamps.

For more interesting stamps to collect, various series were specially printed for use in Cyrenaica, including a Colonial Institute set (featuring a common design from the colonies) issued on 1 June, 1926; several Air Post series; and two special flight issues.

Collecting the stamps of Italian Cyrenaica, and indeed Tripolitania, provides fascinating examples of the bold fascist artistic style called 'futurism'. While many of the issues are overprints of Italian stamps, the audacious graphics from the era can indeed be mesmerising.

Lastly, two beautiful photogravure sets (one regular and one Air Post) were issued on 16 October, 1934, for the Second Colonial Arts Exhibition in Naples. Despite being issued after the official dissolution of the separate colonies, they are wonderful stamps to collect.

Most Cyrenaica stamps are easy to collect mint, and genuine used stamps and covers can command fairly high prices.

Fact file

Name: Italian Colony of Cyrenaica

Region: North Africa

Government: Italian Colony

Prior Regime: Italian North Africa

Key Dates:

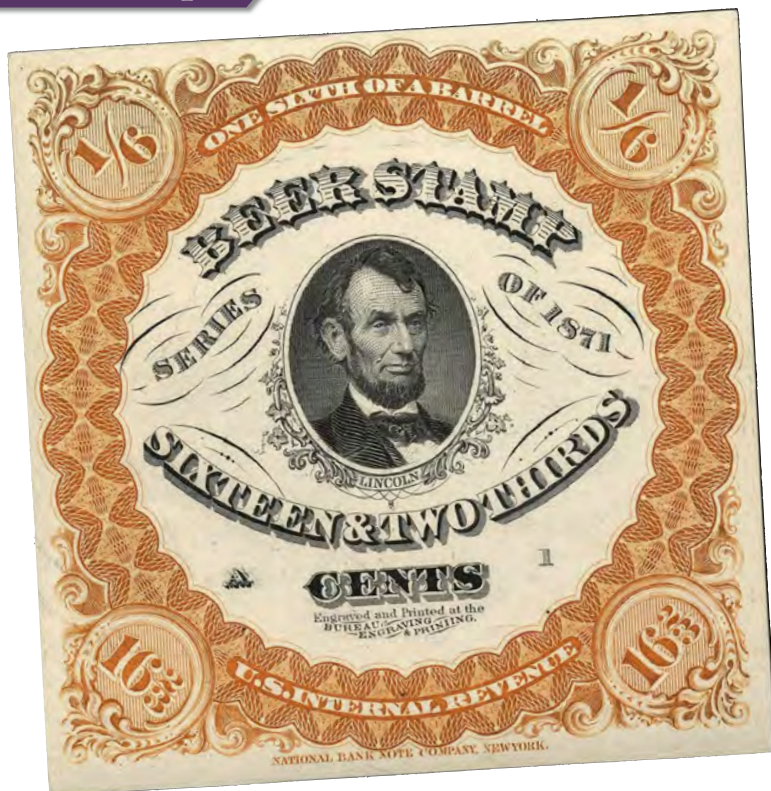
29 Sept, 1911 – Italians launch an attack on Libya against the Ottomans

18 Oct, 1912 – Ottomans ceded Libya to Italy

17 May, 1919 – Cyrenaica established as an Italian Colony

1 Jan, 1934 – Tripolitania and Cyrenaica was combined to be the Italian Colony of Libya (following regime)





Duty comes first

Long before the Penny Post was born, government bodies applied stamps to goods and documents as proof of tax paid and revenue received. Various known as 'tax paid', 'fiscal stamps', 'duty stamps' and 'revenue stamps' these labels have a history that is as intriguing and as fascinating as the postal service itself, as Paula Hammond reveals

Many early philatelists, starved of postage stamps in those early years, collected revenue labels. As the number of stamp issues soared, however, catalogues gradually began to 'drop' these Cinderellas from their listings. Collectors gradually lost interest until, suddenly somewhere in the early noughties, revenue stamps began to make a serious comeback, appearing in specialist catalogues, competitions and big-money auction sales.

In Britain, revenue stamps made their first appearance in 1694 as a temporary way of raising money to finance a war with France. Under the Stamp Act, '...their Majesties [were granted] several duties upon vellum,

Beer has been one of the most consistently taxed products over the years, meaning there is a wealth of material for the 'Cinderella' collector

parchment and paper, for four years...' Needless to say such stamp duties proved to be very lucrative, at least in the short term. It was, after all, the introduction of the Stamp Act in America that directly led to the loss of those valuable colonies to the Empire.

Other countries adopted similar policies and soon revenue was being raised by taxing all types of goods and services, from hats to hair powder, from perfume to playing cards.

Unsurprisingly beer has long been one of the heaviest and most consistently taxed products. During the Great depression in the USA, when Roosevelt desperately needed to raise money for his New Deal, one of the first things he did was pass the Beer Act which killed off Prohibition. Once again people were free to drink and the Government was free to tax their pleasures!

A wealth of collectables

Revenue stamps may have been conceived as a quick and dirty way to raise money for the exchequer, but their designs were far from temporary. Just like postage stamps, revenue stamps needed to be tamper-proof and, while there was no requirement for them to be attractive, designs needed to carry the weight of 'officialdom'. They represented the exchequer, customs, the tax man, and the sovereign.

Unsurprisingly then, early beer revenue stamps were often produced

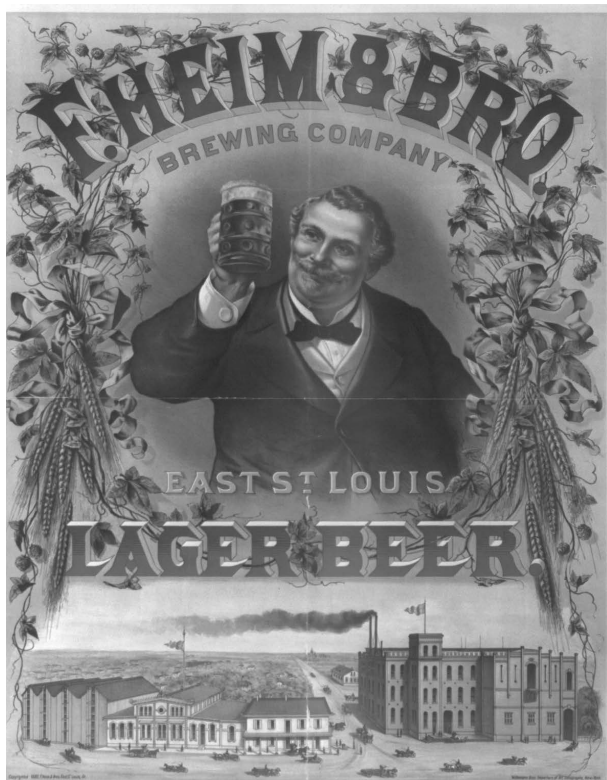
in the same offices and to the same exacting standards as postage stamps, with different dies used for different volumes, values and geographical regions. There were also interesting variants. Some were general duty stamps rather than product specific. Some, especially those from within the British Empire, were used for both mail and 'duty'. And, while barrelled beer was the main target of beer revenue stamps, revenue labels were also issued for wines, spirits, medicinal and industrial alcohol. The variety of revenue stamps available for the collector to enjoy is therefore truly staggering.

Between 1866 and 1951 alone the United States issued about 200 beer revenue stamps. The Australian state of Victoria issued revenue stamps from 1870 to around 2000. In New Zealand a series of long, imperforate Queen Victoria duty stamps appeared in 1867, and were only removed from sale in early 1958.

However, despite the widespread use of these fascinating 'stamps' many are very expensive. After revenue was paid, labels were cut to size and affixed to barrels, kegs, and (later) bottles. The label usually covered the barrel/bottle opening, so that the label would be destroyed or damaged during the process of tapping the barrel or opening the bottle. This was to prevent their fraudulent reuse.

Excise or export?

In addition to proof that internal 'excise' duties have been paid, revenue stamps are also issued for goods intended for export/import. Only certified producers may legally buy these stamps so as well as proving tax paid, they are a guarantee of authenticity. In addition to thin 'seal' strips placed across beer bottle tops, other popular collectable labels include export/import tobacco and whiskey seal strips. These are still commonly used domestically in Eastern Europe and appear in the UK on imported alcohol and tobacco.



How to collect

Eric Jackson has been a professional stamp dealer for over forty years. He specialises in revenue stamps of the United States and Possessions, Canada revenue stamps, as well as other stamps

What is the fascination of revenue stamps?

For me it started when my father gave me his boyhood stamp collection and it included the series of 1934 1/2 bbl. stamp for Fermented Malt Liquor. Nobody could tell me anything about it except that it was a revenue stamp and nobody cared about them. That was enough to pique my interest for the last fifty-plus years!

What tips can you give to any collectors considering buying revenue stamps?

Learn about the stamps you are collecting, especially before you spend serious money. Knowledge is power. Enjoy what you are doing and have fun with your collection. The American Revenue Association (revenue.org), the State Revenue Society (stateresvenue.org), and the UK-based Revenue Society (revenuesociety.org.uk) all publish excellent journals and offer other services, but it is the people that make it all worthwhile.

Should collectors be worried about revenue fakes and, if so, are there any ways to spot them?

There are always fakes and fraudulent items in any collectable field. It is important to learn about what you are buying, do business with reputable dealers who are willing to share their knowledge, buy the books and learn from them, and get to know others with similar interests with whom you can share knowledge. Lastly, handling the stamps is the best teacher in knowing what to expect from a genuine stamp. In time the fake stamps sort of stick out like a sore thumb.

Any there any particular rare/interesting beer revenue issues to look out for?

In U.S. Beer stamps, the series of 1871 is said by many to be the most beautiful set of stamps ever issued. While the 19th-century US beer stamps are beautiful, after the turn of the century the designs became somewhat utilitarian. However, the First World War and Prohibition both occurred and had a big impact on beer stamps with rate changes causing many provisional overprints on the beer stamps. It is these issues from 1909 to 1951 where many of the rarest and most fascinating beer stamps are to be found.

What would be your 'Holy Grail' of beer revenue stamps?

That is a tough one to answer as there are so many, but I am going with the series of 1934 1/3 bbl. beer stamp. There are only two examples recorded, one a used stamp and the other an unused stamp with a Specimen overprint. The used stamp turned up in a small collection that walked into my shop over thirty years ago. The specimen I purchased in a large lot in a stamp auction about 25 years ago. The stamp was known to have been printed and placed into use, but was not known until these turned up. It is fun to find stamps like these.

Visit Eric Jackson's website at: www.ericjackson.com
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The curious case of the Myrtle Bank Hotel Cover

Have you ever looked at an item of postal history and thought that something about it isn't quite as it should be? In a special postal history feature John Tingey presents a late-Victorian 'Whodunnit, Howdunnit and Whydunnit'

'When you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth'

Sherlock Holmes in *The Sign of the Four*
by Arthur Conan Doyle

A mysterious piece of postal history was brought to my attention recently when a fellow collector alerted me to the existence of a cover (figure 1) listed on the website of a dealer who specialises in the stamps and postal history of the British West Indies (BWI). The description on the website read:

*MYRTLE BANK HOTEL,
Jamaica postal history*

Postally applied blue ink (temporary) rubber datestamp for MAR 8 1900 on New York USA 4c rate cover to undecipherable destination. Returned as instructed to Forest Hill, England (per reverse) showing FULHAM JA 29 00. Forwarded Villa de Regal, Kingston, Jamaica arriving K/FE 23 00 where red 'Opened in error/returned' and blue MYRTLE BANK HOTEL added. At Kingston ADVERTISED, UNCLAIMED with RETURNED LETTER BRANCH AP 9 00. 'Sealed at GPO, Jamaica' with stamp selvage and dated Kingston 7 C/ AP 9 00 before returning to USA where DEAD LETTER OFFICE MAY 14 1900 handstamps applied.

The key feature listed was the application of a blue oval Myrtle

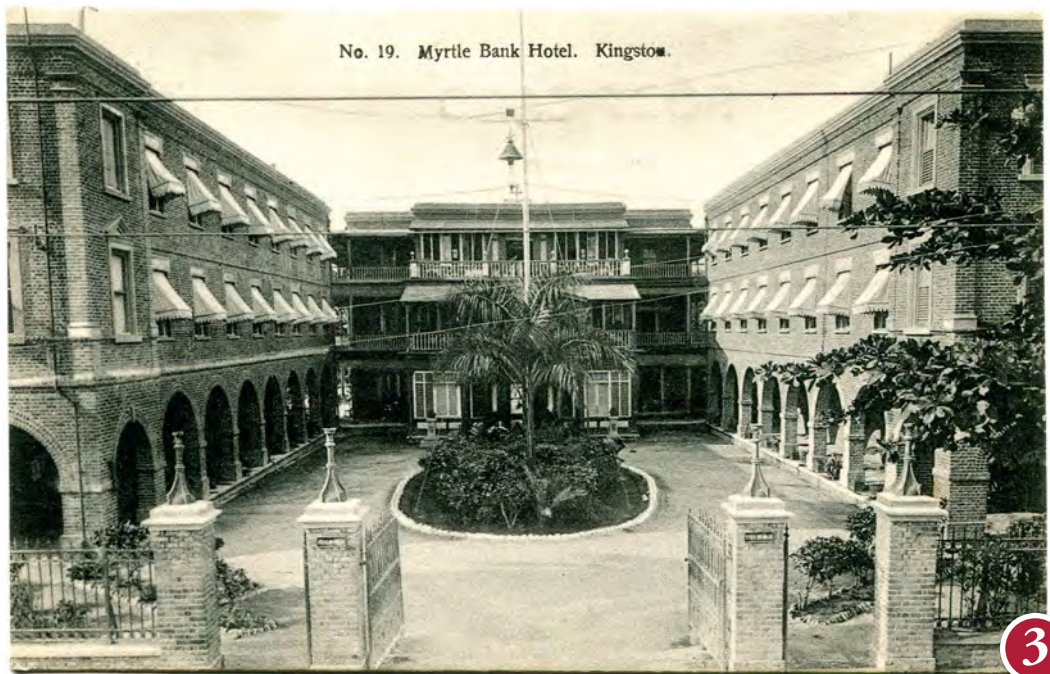
Figure 1: cover bearing four US 1c postage stamps and various postal markings



Bank Hotel date stamp (figure 2) which, so I understand, was previously unrecorded and therefore of significant scarcity and interest to collectors of BWI postal history. The fact that the cover had also been redirected and accumulated a nice variety of postal markings simply enhanced its

attractiveness and desirability.

According to the Caribbean Photo Archives, the Myrtle Bank Hotel was originally converted from a shipyard into a select boarding house and offered personal advice on health issues. By 1875 when downtown Christmas Bazaars became popular



and drew large crowds, the Myrtle Bank became a recreational and social centre. A music stand was erected in the centre of its tropical garden and The West India Regiment Band entertained large crowds twice a week. Eventually the property was acquired by the government and a modern hotel (figure 3), with long French windows that opened on all sides into verandahs, was built on the site in preparation for the Great Exhibition of 1891. It was destroyed in the 1907 earthquake, reconstructed in 1918 and sold to the United Fruit Company. At that time it was the largest hotel in Jamaica with 205 rooms and a filtered salt-water pool.

A Post Office, located inside the hotel, was issued with its own handstamps of which, prior to this cover, the earliest known dated example being recorded was 20 January, 1901.

This may all appear quite straightforward but there are various clues on the cover that indicate that it was in fact a rather ingenious deception:

1. There is a Fulham postmark, dated 29 January, 1900, tying the US stamps to the cover that pre-dates all of the Jamaican marks. Whilst this may appear to be a simple receiving mark it didn't look quite right.

2. The cover had been redirected to

Above, left: a previously unrecorded date stamp used by the Myrtle Bank Hotel

Above, picture postcard of the Myrtle Bank Hotel before it was destroyed in 1907 (the lamps on top of the posts were not replaced when the hotel was rebuilt)

Below: two pairs of US 1 cent postage stamps and the original strip of four

Below, right: the address to which the cover was redirected

what was probably a non-existent address in Jamaica.

3. There is a request to return the cover to an address in England when it had apparently been posted in the United States.

These features warranted a closer examination which, in turn, led to the inescapable conclusion that the cover held a mystery that had probably lain hidden for over 100 years.

Fulham Postmark

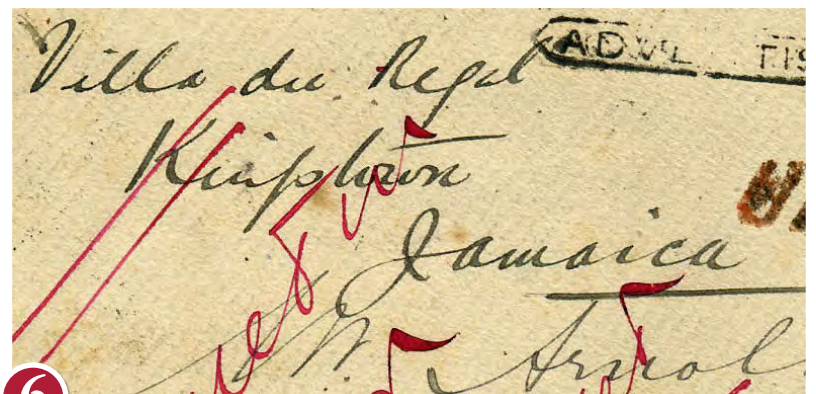
The fact that the Fulham postmark just touches the bottom perforations of the right-hand pair (figure 4) led me to look much closer at the US cancellation on the stamps.

No part of the US postmark can be seen tying either of the pairs of stamps to the cover. At least a portion

of the textual component of the mark should be evident on the left pair but is conspicuous by its absence. Also worthy of note is that the bars of the cancellation of the two pairs are not quite aligned; those on the left pair are slightly lower than the ones on the right and they slant down to the left whereas those on the right are horizontal. All this leads to the inevitable conclusion that these stamps had been used on a different item of mail prior to being affixed to this cover.

A further problem lay with the fact that the correct postage rate from the US to a foreign destination was 5 cents whereas this cover only bears stamps to the value of 4 cents.

With my suspicions aroused I decided to have a bit of fun and submitted the stamps to some Photoshop manipulation. I created separate images for each pair,



Right: picture postcard of King's House, the residence of the Governor of Jamaica

straightened and then swapped them around before re-joining them (figure 5). The results were quite revealing since it is clear that they started out as a used strip of four that had been split into two pairs and 'reversed' presumably to mask the fact that the cancellation was incomplete. On the original mail the missing section of the cancellation probably tied the stamps to the envelope.

Conclusion – this was a previously used strip of four that had been separated into two pairs and swapped around before being affixed to the envelope.

Redirection

The cover has been redirected to Villa du Regal (figure 6) the existence of which I can find no record. There is a King's House (figure 7) which was, and still is, the official residence of the Governor of Jamaica. Conclusion – the address to which the cover was redirected was deliberately misleading.

Request to return

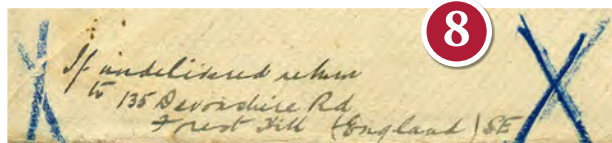
The most damning evidence of all is found in the bottom left corner of the reverse side. Here is a handwritten request (figure 8) to return the mail, if undelivered, to an address in England.

It is this small statement that proves that the cover is not what it seems. The key to the deception, for that is what it is, lay with the postal antics of W. Reginald Bray (figure 9) whose family occupied 135 Devonshire Road, Forest Hill (figure 10) at the time this cover was posted.

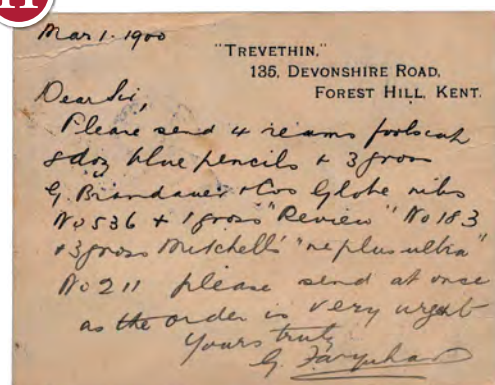
Since 1898, Bray had been creating and mailing all manner of postal curios to satisfy his desire to test the postal system. Bray was also an avid postmark collector and devised many unusual methods to have mail delivered to his home from all four corners of the globe hopefully bearing new and exotic marks that would further increase his ever expanding collection. Over a period of a few short years he amassed more than 10,000 examples, a feat that led him to claim to have the largest collection in the world. Conclusion – this cover was devised by W. Reginald Bray.

Time to look again

Having established that the cover was created by Bray to fool the postal authorities into thinking that it had failed to find its legitimate recipient and thus required redirecting to Jamaica, it becomes necessary to look at it



Request to return the mail, if undelivered, to 135 Devonshire Road Forest Hill, England. Note the similarity between the handwriting used to write this instruction and that to write 'Villa du Regal'; W. Reginald Bray posting one of his mischievous creations at Chislehurst Station, Kent; A Penfold pillar box outside 135 Devonshire Road, Forest Hill (2010)



Postcard sent from Peru, dated May 1900



Envelope sent from Catford to a fictitious address in Zanzibar with instructions to return to England if undelivered.



from a completely different perspective.

Foreign stamps

The use of foreign stamps by Bray to further his cause was not unique to this cover; he had employed similar means of misdirection with other items of mail although not necessarily in quite the same manner.

In May 1900 Bray hid a stamped self-addressed postcard (figure 11) inside a bulky newspaper which he then sent to a fictitious address in Peru. When the newspaper duly arrived at the Peruvian Dead Letter Office the hidden card was discovered and since it bore the appropriate postage it was delivered to England the following month.

In 1899 Bray addressed an envelope (figure 12) to himself using a fictitious address and an unused Zanzibar postage stamp. Despite the fact that the stamp was invalid for mail posted in England the card still managed to get to Zanzibar, albeit with a 1d

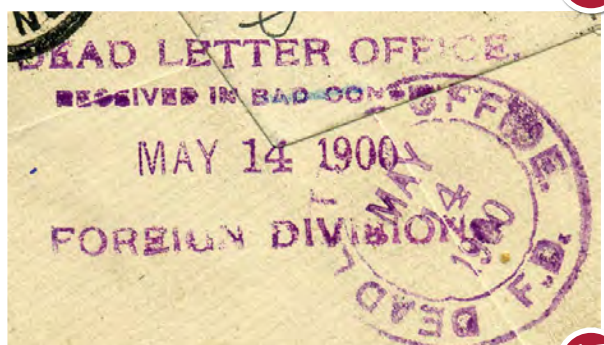
fee applied, before being returned according to the instructions he wrote on the back.

Original address

The addressee was a Mr. Arnold, no doubt referring to Ernest Arnold who was Bray's best friend and co-conspirator in his experimentation with the postal system.

Bray would often send strange items of mail to Arnold or use his name to redirect mail to him at false addresses (figure 13) always ensuring that he included his standard request that they be returned to Bray in the case of non-delivery.

At the time of writing I have been unable to decipher the first address on the Jamaican cover. It may well be that this has been deliberately written so badly that no one, not even the postal authorities of the time, could read it and thus prevent it being despatched to Jamaica. This kind of deception was well within Bray's capabilities.



Top: four postal curios that involved Ernest Arnold, Bray's friend and co-conspirator in his postal system experimentation

Above: an advertised Instructional Mark; the United States Dead Letter Office marks which Bray would have been very pleased to see

After much research it is possible to reconstruct the events that led to the creation of this quite remarkable cover employing a combination of facts and suppositions (in the table below), the latter of which are stated in *italics*:

A nice bit of Postal History

Once the Post Office had fallen for Bray's craftiness the cover was despatched to what we now know was a non-existent address in Jamaica. It may well be that the Jamaican postal authorities thought that the sender probably meant for it to be delivered to one of the more prestigious hotels on the island, hence the application of the coveted Myrtle Bank Hotel mark.

Having failed to find the correct recipient, even after a period of being advertised (figure 14) as 'unclaimed mail', the Jamaican postal authorities decided that the cover should be returned to the United States since the stamps indicated that it had originated from there. This is apparent from the United States Foreign Division Dead Letter Office markings (figure 15) found on the reverse of the cover.

The blue crayon crosses (figure 8) either side of the return instructions indicate that Bray's request had been noted and duly acted upon. Bray would have been hoping to receive back the cover with some Jamaican postal markings. It was probably beyond his wildest expectations that it had also travelled to the United States acquiring two very nice Dead Letter Office marks, let alone to have been franked with a very scarce Myrtle Bank Hotel postmark.

Whilst there may need to be a few minor adjustments made to this sequence of events we clearly have a cover that started in England, travelled to Jamaica, went on to the United States and eventually arrived back in England all the time having no intention of actually being delivered to the original addressee.

The final verdict

Whodunnit?

W. Reginald Bray

Howdunnit?

Reusing old US postage stamps and redirecting to a false address in Jamaica

Whydunnit?

To test the postal system

To increase his collection of postmarks

...because he could

...Elementary my dear reader.

Date	Event	Reasoning
January 1900	Bray asked a friend or relative to address an envelope to Ernest Arnold using a fictitious address	Address not in Bray's handwriting. The lack of other marks indicated that the envelope had not previously passed through the postal system
	Bray split a used strip of four US 1 cent stamps into two pairs and affixed them onto the envelope, swapping their positions around	US postmark only appears to be contiguous with the two pairs positioned in the correct order
	Bray crossed out the fake address and redirected to Villa du Regal in Jamaica	Written in Bray's handwriting
29 January, 1900	Posted in Fulham	Fulham postmark
7 February, 1900	Cover despatched via Royal Mail Steam Packet to the Caribbean	From official records
23 February, 1900	RMSP docked in Kingston, Jamaica	From official records. Kingston, Jamaica receiving marks
<i>February 1900</i>	<i>Jamaican Post Office unable to ascertain to where the mail should be delivered</i>	<i>Fictitious address</i>
<i>March 1900</i>	<i>Cover delivered to the Myrtle Bank Hotel in the hope that Mr Arnold was a guest</i>	
<i>March 1900</i>	<i>Opened at the Myrtle Bank Hotel to examine the contents</i>	Hand written instructional mark 'Opened in error returned'
8 March, 1900	Returned to the Head Post Office	Myrtle Bank Hotel postmark
March 1900	Sealed by Jamaican Post Office with selvedge from the edge of a sheet of postage stamps	Hand written instructional mark 'Sealed at G.P.O Jamaica'
March 1900	Advertised as unclaimed mail, <i>possibly in the Kingston Gazette</i>	Unclaimed and Advertised instructional marks
9 April, 1900	After a month without being claimed shipped 'back' to the United States	Jamaican postmarks on front and back
14 May, 1900	Received at the United States Foreign Division Dead Letter Office, marked as received in bad condition	US FD Dead Letter postmarks
May 1900	'If undelivered address' identified and returned to England	Blue crayon crosses either side of Bray's address in Forest Hill
<i>Unknown date</i>	<i>Second attempt to open cover to examine contents, possibly by a future collector/owner Alternatively this might have taken place at the Head Post Office in Kingston to determine if there was a US address to which it could be returned</i>	<i>Partly opened selvedge Second set of initials on back</i>

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Stamps of the civil wars

The Spanish Civil War produced an array of colourful, poignant and evocative stamps and labels, as Paula Hammond reveals in her ongoing A to Z series on collecting by theme

Civil Wars are perhaps the most horrifying of all conflicts, with brother fighting brother and nations tearing themselves apart from within. Most are thankfully short-lived, with those in charge quickly re-establishing control. However, in the 20th century one conflict stands out: the Spanish Civil War. This brutal campaign lasted from 1936-1939, with each side receiving substantial support from other nations (Nazi Germany and Italy supported the anti-government Franco-led Nationalists and France and the Soviet Union supported the pro-government Republicans).

War is always an interesting theme for philatelists but the Spanish Civil War is especially fascinating. Despite being sadly under researched, and at times complex and messy, this is a horribly addictive thematic that rewards the curious collector. One of the biggest reasons for this is the sheer variety of philatelic material produced.

Early in the war, the legitimate Government of the 2nd Republic continued to issue stamps and, unsurprisingly, many celebrated important battles, revolutionary leaders, and the armed forces. These include the splendid 1938 six-stamp Submarine Service series and the 1938 second anniversary of the Defence of Madrid stamp. One of the most notable 'non-military' issues, though, appeared in 1937. Marking the 150th anniversary of the US Constitution, the stamp highlighted historic links between Spain and the US and was clearly aimed at garnering international support.

As the conflict intensified, stamp production was increasingly left to regional, provincial and municipal governments. By 1937, stamps and stamp-like labels were also being produced in huge numbers by every faction: the fascists, communists, anarchists, trades unions, and militia. Such labels were effectively revenue stamps, used to raise funds for either the 'cause' or local needs. Designed to look like postage stamps and often affixed to mail alongside official stamps, each had their own 'code'. The Franco-led fascists favoured



the colours of the Spanish flag (red, yellow and red) along with slogans such as 'Arriba Espania' and 'Viva Franco'. The communists tended towards images of stars, clenched fists, hammers and sickles. Interestingly there is evidence that some of these 'assistance stamps' were printed with deliberate errors to increase their value!

One particularly interesting issue from 1937 highlights the quality of the stamp labels produced. Issued by the Association of Friends of the Soviet Union, to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Russian Revolution, this ten-issue set was produced in black, indigo, red, and cyan variants for use in the Basque region, which was a Republican stronghold.

Overprinted stamps, produced by Franco's forces, are also worth the collector's attention. Many bear the word 'liberation' alongside the date and name of the town being 'liberated'. Of particular interest are the Burgos Imprints. These were Belgium tax stamps, seized from a ship called the Galdames. Initially used without any overprinting, they were later overprinted in blocks of four with images of a Pegasus, a motorcycling postman, a car and a steam train. Such imprints only appeared towards the end of the conflict and are very rare used. Stamps were also reused by the Ministry of Finance who produced thick cardboard discs as a substitute for small denomination coins, attaching a stamp to one side to indicate value.

Whether you collect stamps, cinderellas or postal memorabilia, the Spanish Civil War has something for everyone.



C is for Civil War

Notable Releases

150th Anniversary of the US Constitution, 1937
Twentieth anniversary of the Russian Revolution, 1937
1929 Burgos Imprint, 1938
Submarine Service, 1938
Second anniversary of the Defence of Madrid, 1938

Expand the theme

The International Brigades were made up of volunteers who travelled to Spain to fight for the Republic. Their contributions were celebrated on stamps produced in Spain during the conflict, and by other nations after. For the thirtieth anniversary, the USSR, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the DDR all issued stamps. Czechoslovakia's featured Picasso's *Guernica*. The DDR celebrated with six stamps showing Germans who fought against fascism, including Hans Beimler, who escaped Dachau to fight in the Brigades. Similar stamps were issued in 1976 and 1986.

Collecting Links

Widely praised for thoroughness and clarity, the 2012, 698-page *Vinetas Politicas Republicanas de la Guerra Civil Espanola (Republican Political Labels of the Spanish Civil War)* features 2,136 labels.

Why collect Spanish Civil War?

- Substantial topic, with huge scope for dabbling and serious study.
- Growing area of interest with the eightieth anniversary in 2016.
- Many issues can be found mint.
- Already attracting good prices (a 1938 second anniversary of the Defence of Madrid souvenir sheet recently sold for \$6,500)



Cable ships and undersea cables

During the 20th century complex undersea cable communication systems made the world a smaller place, providing lines of communication across the world. Richard Tarrant looks at how stamps illustrating cable ships can form a fascinating thematic collection

It is a common misconception that undersea or submarine cable communication has been superseded by communication by satellite. In fact, over 95 per cent of international internet, telephone and data traffic is still accounted for by undersea cables, which are cheaper and more reliable than satellites.

Undersea cable communication was triggered by the development of commercial electrical telegraphy. The first such telegraph was invented by William Fothergill Cooke and Charles Wheatstone and was used on railways in Britain from the late 1830s.

The successful introduction of telegraphy gave rise to the ambition to build undersea cables to transmit messages. An initial concern was how to insulate cables. Fortunately, this was solved by the introduction into the UK in 1843 of gutta percha, a gum derived from trees of the genus *Palaquium*. Gutta percha's qualities led to it being first used to insulate undersea cables in 1847.



Top: 2008 Eire stamp illustrating the converted warships HMS *Agamemnon* and USS *Niagara* laying the first successful transatlantic cable in August 1858, although the cable failed the following month; Above from left: 1958 USA stamp issued to celebrate the Atlantic cable centenary; 1987 GB stamp depicting the SS *Great Eastern*, which was successful in laying the transatlantic cable in 1866

In August 1850 the Submarine Telegraph Company laid the first submarine cable across the English Channel, from Dover to Cap Gris Nez. It was laid by the paddle steamer *Goliath*, accompanied by HMS *Widgeon*. A 1977 Rwanda stamp depicted the two vessels, using engravings that had appeared in the *Illustrated London News* as the basis for the stamp design. The cable, which consisted of a single copper wire covered by gutta percha, failed soon

after reaching France, a popular story being that a French fisherman cut the cable having hauled it in with his catch, but that is conjecture.

In September 1851 another attempt was made to lay a cable across the English Channel, this time with a much heavier cable consisting of four strands of copper wire, covered with a double layer of gutta percha, further protected by tarred hemp, spun yarn and a spiral of galvanised iron wires. The cable was laid by the steamer HMS *Blazer* and operated successfully for many years. Following this achievement, many more cables were laid between England and European countries.

It was clear that a transatlantic telegraph cable to connect England to the USA was desirable, which entailed laying a cable from Ireland to Newfoundland, as cables from Ireland to England and Newfoundland to the USA were already in place. Although attempts in 1857 and 1858 using the



1979 Ascension Island stamp illustrating the cable ship *Anglia*; 1979 Ascension Island stamp illustrating the *Anglia* landing cable on Comfortless Cove



converted warships HMS *Agamemnon* and USS *Niagara* failed, in August 1858 the cable was successfully laid and messages exchanged between Queen Victoria and President James Buchanan. A superb 2008 Irish stamp pictured the two vessels. Unfortunately, the cable's insulation failed in September 1858, setting back the quest for some years, although the USA issued a stamp in 1958 celebrating the Atlantic cable centenary.

Further attempts at laying a transatlantic cable were made from 1865, using the SS *Great Eastern*, which has been pictured on a number of stamps including those of Great Britain and Monaco. The cable between Ireland and Newfoundland was successfully laid in 1866.

Britain reaches out

Having played an important part in establishing the transatlantic cable, Great Britain continued laying cables and by 1876 had connected to India, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. By the end of the 19th century Britain dominated the industry, most cable laying ships being British owned and British companies owning and operating two-thirds of the world's cables.



1979 Eire stamp picturing the cable ship *William Cory*, which laid the Irish shore ends of the Atlantic cable in 1866

Set of two Australian stamps issued in 1936 to mark the opening of the submarine telephone link to Tasmania



Cable repair ships

Understandably, submarine cables are vulnerable to damage from a number of sources. They can be at risk of interference from hazards such as anchors, fishing vessels, earthquakes and underwater landslides.

Cables, when damaged, are dealt with by cable repair ships, which tend to be smaller and more manoeuvrable than cable laying ships. A series of tests determine the location of a fault before a cable repair ship sails to the site. If the faulty part of the cable is less than around 6,500 feet down, the crew sends out a submersible robot which grabs the cable, cuts out the non-working section and pulls the loose ends back up to the ship. In deeper water, the crew uses a grapnel to grasp the cable from the sea floor. The faulty cable section is fixed on board ship before being lowered back to the seabed on ropes.



Undersea communication cables have continued to be laid but with huge technological advances, as telegraphy gave way to telephony and internet traffic. In 1956 the first transatlantic telephony cable was inaugurated and in the 1980s fibre optic cables were developed. Such has been the growth of undersea cable communication that there are now over 250 cable systems operating worldwide, connecting all continents with the exception of Antarctica.

Many stamps have featured cable-laying vessels, which are distinguished by the presence of large cable sheaves. These are wheels or rollers with a groove along their edge for holding cables and guiding them over bow or stern or both, an engine being used to

feed the cables down to the ocean floor.

Many countries have issued stamps depicting cable ships that have connected cable systems to their country. In 1979, for example, Ascension Island issued a superb set of stamps to mark the eightieth anniversary of the Eastern Telegraph Company, later to become Cable and Wireless, on Ascension. The set included two stamps depicting CS *Anglia*, one of SS *Seine* and a map demonstrating the central part Ascension Island plays in the world's cable network. Similarly, a 1979 Ireland stamp depicted the CS *William Cory*, which laid the Irish shore ends of the Atlantic cable in 1866.

It is an interesting exercise to research the origin of individual cable

TEN STAMPS ON...

Battles of the Second World War

With Royal Mail marking the Battle of Britain, Adrian Keppel looks at the major WWII battles, as represented on stamps

1 One of the earliest battles of the Second World War is that of Khalkhin Gol, fought from May to September 1939. As it officially precedes the war, it is now often forgotten but it was a major strategic conflict, checking Japanese imperial aggression in Siberia and Mongolia.

2 The only major battle in South America was that of the River Plate. It was also the first naval battle of the war, where the UK and New Zealand fought the Germans along the coast of Argentina and Uruguay, in December 1939.

3 The Siege of Malta was one long battle which raged from June 1940 to November 1942, with Malta finding itself caught between the Allied and Axis powers fighting over naval control of the Mediterranean.

4 The Battle of Crete, fought in May and June 1941 has become famous for being the first mainly airborne invasion in history. However, it was also one of the first battles whereby the Germans encountered very aggressive resistance from the local population, resulting in heavy losses among their paratroopers.

5 The Battle of Moscow was fought on the Eastern Front between October 1941 and January 1942, resulting in a decisive Soviet victory. It is seen as Germany's major operational and tactical failure, which thwarted Hitler's plans for occupying Moscow.

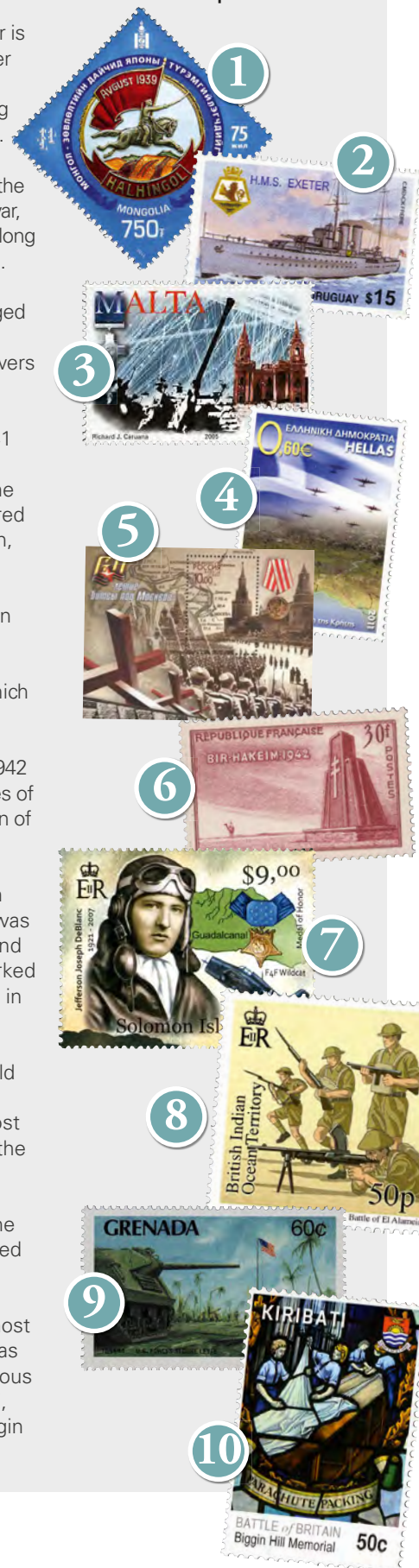
6 The Battle of Bir Hakeim, fought in May and June 1942 in the Libyan desert, was one of the bloodiest battles of the North African Campaign. It cemented the reputation of the Free French Forces as a force to be reckoned with.

7 The first major battle of the Allies against Japan was the Battle of Guadalcanal in the Pacific. It was fought between August 1942 and February 1943 and led to an Allied victory. It was the battle which marked the change from defensive to offensive operations in that part of the world.

8 One of the decisive victories of the Second World War was the Battle of El Alamein. The clash between Montgomery and Rommel, two of the most outstanding commanders, led to Allied victory and the German surrender in North Africa in May 1943.

9 The largest naval battle of the war was that of the Leyte Gulf, fought in October 1944, which crippled the Japanese naval capabilities.

10 The Battle of Britain is without a doubt the most famous battle of the Second World War, and as such is commemorated often on the stamps of various countries. A more unusual issue was that of Kiribati, who pictured the stained-glass windows of the Biggin Hill Memorial on their 2010 stamp set.



1970 Jamaica stamp showing cross-sections of cable and the cable ship *Dacia*

ships, learn of the cable work they undertook and what eventually became of the ship. The *Scotia*, for example, was built in 1861 for Cunard and operated as an Atlantic paddle steamer until sold in 1879 to the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company and converted for cable laying. It was sold on in 1903 to the Commercial Pacific Cable Company but was wrecked on a reef at Catalan Island, Guam in 1904. The *Scotia* took part in many major cable-laying projects during its lifetime, including that from England to Newfoundland in 1894.

Cable systems on stamps

A number of stamps have been issued to celebrate particular cable systems. An early example is that of a pair of stamps issued by Australia in 1936 to mark the opening of the submarine telephone link to Tasmania. COMPAC (Commonwealth Pacific Cable System) was a telephone cable system laid in 1962 and 1963 that connected Canada with New Zealand and Australia. Four countries issued stamps to commemorate the opening of the cable in December 1963, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. The cable system was laid by cable ships *Mercury*, *Monarch* and *Retriever*, all of which have featured on stamps. COMPAC was later replaced by ANZCAN (Australia-New Zealand-Canada submarine cable), with an additional landing at Norfolk Island, celebrated on 1983 Norfolk Island stamps.

A thematic collection of cable ship and cable system stamps provides an interesting insight into an area of communication that is still of major importance.

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Society news

At the recent AGM of the Welsh Philatelic Society, it was agreed to change the name of the Society to **The Welsh Postal History Society**. The Society meets three to four times a year in various parts of Wales and holds a weekend meeting every June at Plas Tan y Bwlch near Maentwrog, N. Wales. For more information contact Peter Brindley, e-mail: peter@wps.wales.org

Redditch Philatelic Society are holding a stamp fair at St Benedict's High School, Alcester on 17 October. This fair is being held in conjunction with the Midland Philatelic Federation's Autumn Convention and will also be displaying entries to the Federation's individual sixteen-sheet competitions. Society Chairman, Alan Godfrey, said: 'We aim to attract collectors to the fair from across the Midlands. The Society is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2016 and we intend to make this fair our most successful ever.' Around twenty stamp dealers will be in attendance. For more information about the Society and the fair, tel: 01789 765385; web: www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk

The 2014-15 **Maidstone & Mid Kent Philatelic Society** season finished with a display of the Cayman Islands by Graham Booth FRPSL. The display included rare postal history items and Victorian and Edward VII stamps, artwork for the 'Birds and Flowers' issues, Forgeries, Postage Dues and Air/Sea Mail. The 94th season starts on the 10 September, 2015 with Dr Garth Taylor's display of Czech Forces in France and UK during 1939-45. Meetings will be at St Pauls Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone.

Christine Earle recently gave a display of the role of British women during the Second World War at the **Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society**. The roles included air raid precautions, the Women's Voluntary Services, air raid shelters in Underground stations, National Insurance, and the Women's Land Army. The subject was illustrated with stamps and contemporary documents, ration books, savings stamps, identity cards, and much more. For Society details contact John Rawlins, tel: 01245 420196; e-mail: john@jr226.plus.com



Members of the **Royal Philatelic Society London** were treated to a display covering over 400 years of Swedish military mail recently. Richard Bodin (pictured above with RPSL President Chris King) presented a range of material related to the postal and special communications arrangements for the Swedish armed forces and military volunteers during war, military and naval campaigns, plus Swedes in active military services abroad. The earliest item shown, indeed the earliest known cover relating to any Swedish war, was sent during the 25 years war against

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Russia from 1570 to 1595. The official letter was sent from the Swedish field camp at Coporie, Russia and is signed by Field Marshall Pontus de La Garde on 9 March, 1582. For Society details tel: 020 7486 1044.

Chris Harman RDP, Hon FRPSL, recently gave a displays on 'Classic British Private Posts and College Stamps' to the **Great Britain Philatelic Society**. Chris opened his display of the Circular Delivery Companies with the startling description of the items being 'junk mail', before explaining that the companies were privately created to provide a cheap service delivering printed advertising circulars, parcels and goods, not offered by the British Post Office. The second session of the meeting was given by Ray Downing on 'Aspects of Postal Mechanisation', beginning with the Pearson Hill's machine obliterator trial in 1857, Charles Rideout's of 1858-9, onto Azamar's machine in 1869 and continuing with the development of the cancelling machines through the years to the present day. For Society details write to: Peter Tanner, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 7EN; e-mail: PetertannerHS13@talktalk.net; website: www.gbpps.org.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON

Wreck & Crash Mail Society

For more than twenty years, the Wreck & Crash Mail Society has promoted the study of mail delayed and/or damaged during its transit due to air, sea or rail accidents. The society is comprised of four study groups: the Air Crash Study Group, the Railroad Wreck Study Group, the Ship Wreck Study Group and the Suspended Mail/Conflicts Study Group.

Studies of all aspects of wreck and crash mail are presented in *La Catastrophe*, the group's quarterly journal which is sent out free to members. The content also includes news on new cover discoveries, auction realisations, and questions from members seeking information on items from their own collection. More information on wreck and crash mail can be found on the group's website: <http://wreckandcrash.org> which has a database of shipwreck and aircraft accidents, as well as articles on the subject and details of relevant dealers.

The group holds an annual meeting, usually in London, where members displays parts of their collections and exchange news and information. This year's event will be held at Stampex (at the Business Design Centre in Islington) on 19 September, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

UK membership is £15 per year. To join or for more information, e-mail: kaerophil@gmail.com or visit: <http://wreckandcrash.org>

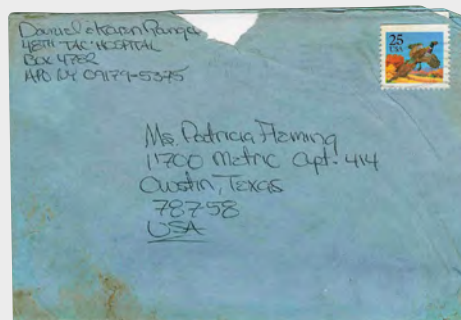


Image © Ken Sanford Collection

Thatcham

Thatcham Memorial Hall, Bath Road (A4); 01256 415699

16 August 2015

Dronfield

Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, near Sheffield
01909 563394

Knowle

Knowle Village Hall, St Johns Close B93 0NH
07765 792998

Luton

Ramada Encore, Luton Airport, Airport Way; 07710 683122

Tettenhall

Tettenhall College, Wood Road
01283 820151

22 August 2015

Great Barr

Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey; 07765 792998

Middlewich

Community Centre, Civic Way, off Leadsmithy St; 01226 755069

26 August 2015

Birmingham

Birmingham Nautical Club, off Broad St; 01283 820151

29 August 2015

Billingshurst

Community Centre, Roman Way
01903 244875

Leeds

St Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley; 01909 563394

Newcastle

St Georges UR Church Hall, Newton Road, Heaton
07948 979544

30 August 2015

Harrogate

Masonic Hall, Station Avenue,
01282 866562

Hatfield

Ramada Hatfield, St Albans Road West; 01582 876651

31 August 2015

Aylesbury

Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, A41; 07710 683122

Beverley

Norwood Methodist Church Hall, Norwood; 01909 563394

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01926 499031
www.warwickandwarwick.com

Hong Kong

Baldwin's
Far Eastern and World Coins, Medals and Banknotes
www.baldwin.co.uk

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1 August 2015

Beckenham

Azelia Hall, Croydon Road
0208 395 9285

Powick

Village Hall, near Great Malvern
01283 820151

Norwich

Hewett School, Gate 1, Cecil Road, (off Hall Rd) 01953 602692

12 August 2015

Nottingham

Nuttall Temple Centre, Nottingham Road
01283 820151

16 August 2015

Tettenhall

Tettenhall College, Wood Road
01283 820151

26 August 2015

Birmingham

Birmingham Nautical Club, off Broad Street; 01283 820151

COIN FAIRS

1 August 2015

London

Bloomsbury Hotel, 16-22 Great Russell Street WC1B 3NN
01694 731781

9 August 2015

Birmingham

National Motorcycle Museum, Bickenhill B92 0EJ
01694 731781

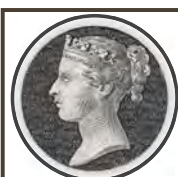
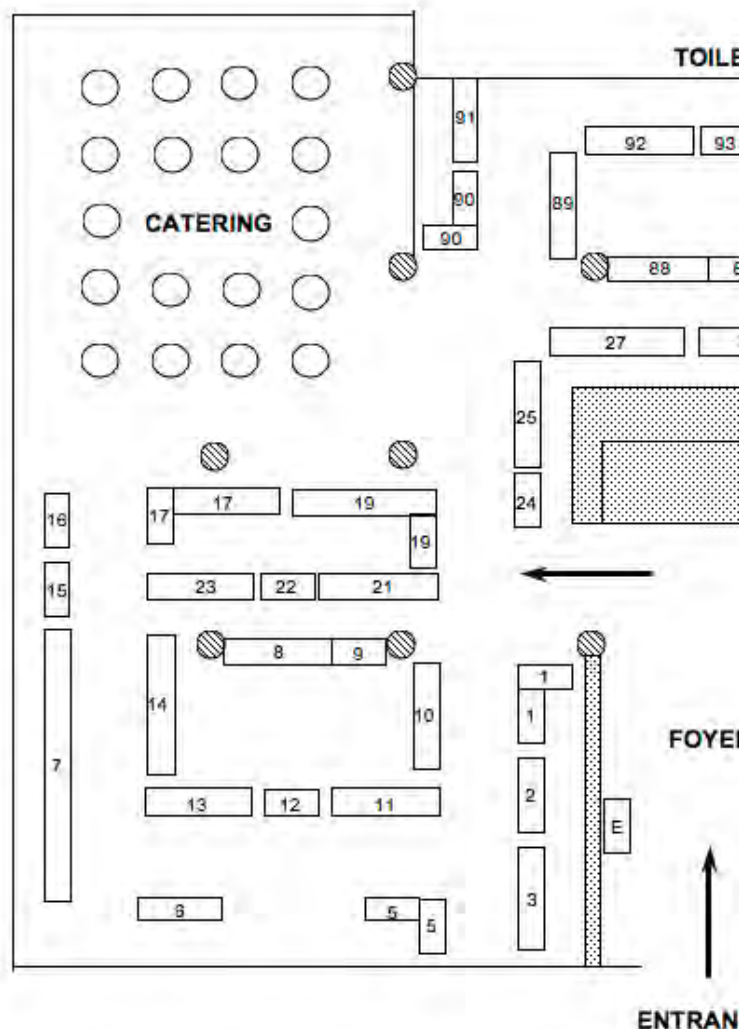
All dates and venues are correct at the time of going to press. Please check the details with the event organisers before attending. Add your own event details on our website, just visit: www.stampandcoin.co.uk

York Stamp Fair Summer 2015

Your quick reference guide to the York Stamp & Coin Fair

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Ground Floor - Stamp dealers (turn to page 94 for coin dealers)



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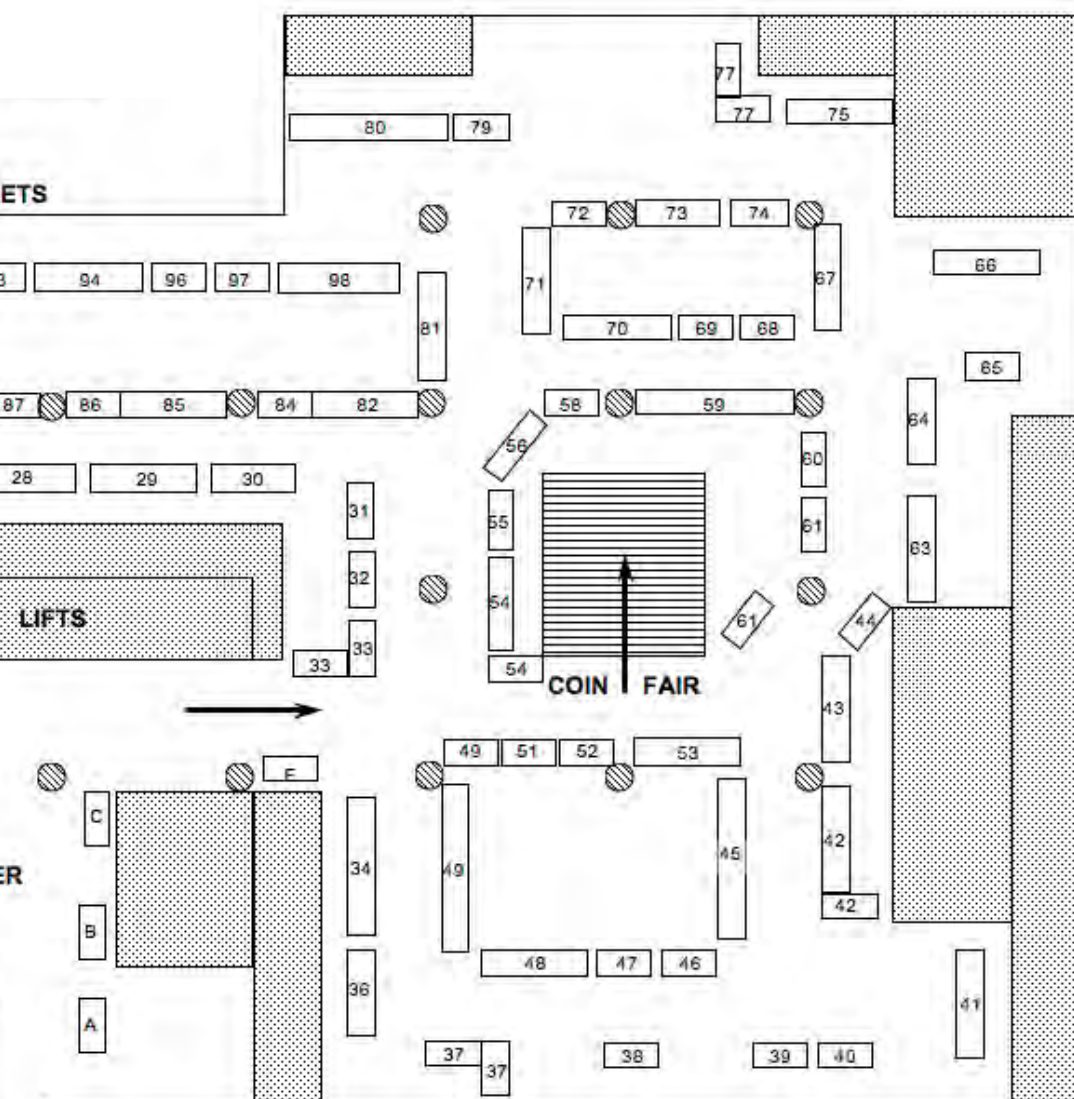
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Friday 17th July (11am - 6pm), Saturday 18th July (10am - 4pm)
The Racecourse, York, YO21 1EX



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In-depth listings

Your comprehensive guide to the latest new stamps from around the world

GREAT BRITAIN

(listed in every issue)

001 Machin definitives, six self-adhesive values issued in sheets
Issue date: March 24, 2015; Design: Jeffery Matthews after relief of Queen Elizabeth by Arnold Machin; Printer: De La Rue, gravure; two phosphor bands; Perforations: die-cut 14.5 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides

- £1.33 – Amber yellow
- £1.52 – Orchid mauve
- £2.25 – Plum purple
- £2.15 – Spruce green
- £3.15 – Aqua green
- £3.30 – Rose pink

Notes: stamps have coding M15L in the security overlay. Colours quoted are Royal Mail's own designations, from 'new' palette

002 Country Stamps (definitives), two new values in older designs for each country
Issue date: March 24, 2015; Design: Sedley Place (England); Tayburn (Scotland); Tussells Enterprise (Wales); Rodney Miller Associates (N. Ireland). Printer: Cartor (International Security Printers), offset; two phosphor bands; Perforations: 14.75 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides

ENGLAND

- £1.00 – Oak tree
- £1.33 – Tudor rose

NORTHERN IRELAND

- £1.00 – Linen slip case from Lisburn Museum
- £1.33 – Parian china from the Ulster Museum

SCOTLAND

- £1.00 – Thistle sculpted by Tim Chalk
- £1.33 – Tartan pattern by Kinloch Andersen

WALES

- £1.00 – Daffodil in Welsh slate by Leuan Rees. Blue-black
- £1.33 – Prince of Wales' feathers, made by Rhiannon Evans

003 Comedy Greats, ten non-denominated values in two se-tenant strips of five designs
Issue date: April 1, 2015; Design: Sedley Place; Printer: International Security Printers; Perforations 14.25 x 14; Gummed
1st (63p) – Spike Milligan, 1918-2002

- 1st (63p) – The Two Ronnies. Ronnie Barker, 1929-2006, and Ronnie Corbett (b.1930)
- 1st (63p) – Billy Connolly (b.1942)
- 1st (63p) – Morcambe & Wise. Eric Morecambe (1976-1984) and Ernie Wise (1925-1999)
- 1st (63p) – Norman Wisdom, 1915-2010
- 1st (63p) – Lenny Henry (b.1958)
- 1st (63p) – Peter Cook (1937-1995) and Dudley Moore (1935-2002)
- 1st (63p) – Monty Python's Flying Circus: Graham Chapman (1941-1989), Eric Idle (b.1943), Terry Jones (b.1942), John Cleese (b.1939), Terry Gilliam (b.1940) and Michael Palin (b.1943)
- 1st (63p) – French and Saunders. Dawn French (b.1957) and Jennifer Saunders (b.1958)
- 1st (63p) – Victoria Wood (b.1953)

004 Comedy Greats, self-adhesive booklet
Issue date: April 1, 2015; Design (comedy stamps): Sedley Place; Printer: International Security Printers, gravure; two phosphor bands; Perforations: die-cut 14.25 x 14.5, or 14.5 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs (Machin)

Self-adhesive booklet (£3.78) – contains

- 1st (63p) x 1 copy – Norman Wisdom, 1915-2010
- 1st (63p) x 6 copies – Machin head (Queen Elizabeth II) in red
- 1st (63p) x 1 copy – The Two Ronnies. Ronnie Barker, 1929-2006, and Ronnie Corbett (b.1930)

ANDORRA (Spanish Post Offices)

(previously listed in June 2011 issue)

005 Escaldes – Enrgordany, Catalan Cultural Capital 2011, one self-adhesive value
Issue date: January 12, 2011; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: die-cut 13
€0.35 – Abstract artwork (coloured squares)

006 Miguel Martí I Pol, Poet, one value
Issue date: February 7, 2011; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75
€0.65 – Portrait of Pol, 1929-2003, Catalan poet and multiple sclerosis campaigner / sufferer

007 Europa 2011. Forests, one value
Issue date: April 4, 2011; Design: from

photograph; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75

- €0.65 – Woodland scene in the Bosc de Sorobilles, Ordino

008 Modern Architecture, one value
Issue date: May 3, 2011; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 14
€0.80 – Casa Farràs in Andorra la Vella, designed by Josep Maria Sostres

009 Artworks from the Venice Biennial, 2011, two values
Issue date: July 1, 2011; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations 13.75 x 14
€0.80 – The Floating City – Image 1, photograph by Helena Guàrdia (b.1966)
€2.55 – The Ephemeral and the Eternal, installation by Francisco Sánchez (b.1962)

010 Cultural Heritage. The Pedra Clau at Sant Esteve, one value
Issue date: June 1, 2011; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 14
€2.55 – Mural with floral motif, (twelfth century fragment, on stone block) from the restored Church of St Stephen, Andorra la Vella

011 Civic Values: Igualtat / Equality between the sexes, one value
Issue date: September 8, 2011; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75
€0.80 – Co-joined figure of woman and man

012 UPAEP 2011. Post Box, one value
Issue date: October 11, 2011; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75
€0.80 – Post box in the form of a house

013 Christmas 2011, one value
Issue date: November 3, 2011; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.75
€0.35 – Red tree bauble with silver star, green tree bauble with spots, half of a green tree bauble with stripes

Notes: printed in vertical tête-bêche pairs within the sheet of fifty stamps (lower stamp is inverted) pairs making a composite design with the two halves of the striped bauble forming a whole



005



006



007



008



012



013



014 10th anniversary of the Rossell Forge Ironworking Museum and Interpretation Centre at La Massana, one self-adhesive value

Issue date: January 9, 2012; Design: photograph by A Zena; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: die-cut 13 x 13.25
€0.35 – Interior of the historic forge, with equipment (tongs, castings, water-powered hammer)



015 30th anniversary of the death of Augustí Bartra, 1908-1982, one value

Issue date: February 27, 2012; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75
€0.51 – Portrait of the writer, dramatist and professor of the Catalan language



016 Europa 2012. Visit Andorra. one value

Issue date: April 4, 2012; Design: from photograph by Alex Tena; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75
€0.75 – Shelter (tourist and climbing hut) in the Val de Madriu (UNESCO World Heritage site) at Perafita-Clavor

017 Modern Architecture, one value

Issue date: May 3, 2012; Design: from photograph; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 14
€0.75 – CIAM building at Escaldes-Engordany

Notes: the CIAM is a cultural centre for interpretation of water / hydrology

018 Cultural Heritage. Wood Sculpture, one value

Issue date: June 1, 2012; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 14
€0.85 – Wooden relief from the furnishings of the Church of St Martin, Cortinada

019 Art and Design, two values

Issue date: July 2, 2012; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75
€2.90 – Table Lamp Le Jardin Fêlé by Aurea Bellera Gracia
€2.90 – Art installation (mural across several angled panels) Les Draps by Metitxell Papio Bertran showing a woman undressing and in bed

020 Civic Values: Dialogue, one value

Issue date: September 10, 2012; Design: from a poster; Printer: State Mint (Spain), one value; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.5
€0.85 – Woman, man and child emitting red and green speech bubbles (cartoon)

021 UPAEP. Myths and Legends, one value

Issue date: October 11, 2012; Design: after illustration by Seri Mas; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations 14 x 13.75
€0.85 – Cosmologia Simple / Simple Cosmology
Notes: depicts man riding a goat, representing Capricorn. 2012 was the centenary of the UPAEP (Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal)

022 Christmas 2012, one value

Issue date: November 5, 2012; Design: painting by Eric Rodriguez Barceló; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75
€0.36 – *La Revetlla de Nadal (The Eve of Christmas)* showing Holy Family

023 Centenary of the Birth of Salvador Espríu i Castelló, 1913-1985, one self-adhesive value

Issue date: January 10, 2013; Printer: State Mint (Spain), offset; Perforations die-cut 13
€0.37 – Portrait of the Catalan writer and poet, and script

Notes: printed in sheets of 25 with stamps separately arranged upon rouletted backing labels

BAHAMAS

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

024 World Day of Prayer, three values

Issue date: March 6, 2015; Designs: works of art by contemporary Bahamian artists; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations 14 x 14
15c – Never Forget How To Serve by Jessica Colebrooke (terracotta coloured with oxides and stains)
50c – Blessed by Chantal Bethel (flamingos in red light rays)
65c – The Master Key, metallic sculpture by Tyrone Ferguson

BARBADOS

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

025 50th anniversary of the Cave Hill Campus of the University of West Indies in Barbados

Issue date: September 14, 2014; Design: Andrew Robinson; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations 14 x 14
10c – The Clock Tower
65c – Graduate receiving scroll
\$1.40 – Administration Building (2010), known as The Golden Stool
\$2.50 – Standard Bearer (with mace) leading procession

026 Gardens of Barbados, four values and four further values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: December 18, 2014; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12.5 x 13
(A) stamps from sheets: views of Barbados gardens (photographs)
10c – Gardenia Gardens (view to ocean)
65c – Hunte's Gardens
\$1.80 – Glendale Gardens
\$2.20 – Eusteen's Garden
(B) miniature sheet:
\$1 x 4 designs (2 x 2 se-tenant) – floral craft arrangements in the form of old Sailor's Valentines

BELIZE

(previously listed in July 2014 issue)

027 Centenary of the Salvation Army in Belize, two values

Issue date: April 8, 2015; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 14.1 x 14.1.
25c – Girl painting poster 'Sharing is Caring'
\$2 – Salvation Army House, Belize

BERMUDA

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

028 Bermuda Roses, ten non-denominated stamps se-tenant, in sheets and in a booklet
Issue date: December 18, 2014; Designs: after photographs by Bermuda Rose Society; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 13.8 x 13.6.
(A) Sheet stamps: two (separate) horizontally se-tenant strips of five designs
Zone 1 (70c) – Four yellow roses; white roses; pink rose; pale yellow rose; pink and white rose; white rose, pink centre; pale yellow rose; pale pink rose; deep orange rose; pink rose
(B) Booklet (\$7.00), with se-tenant pane/block of ten Zone 1 stamps (5 x 2), plain white margins all round
Cover depicts open deep pink single roses (similar to wild roses)

Notes: stamps in the booklet pane are in differing se-tenant combinations compared to sheet stamps

029 Flower paintings by Charlotte Anna Lefroy, ten none-denominated values, se-tenant in sheets and in a booklet

Issue date: January 15, 2015; Designer and printer: not reported. Perforations 13.9 x 13.9.
(A) sheet stamps: two (separate) horizontally se-tenant strips of five designs
Zone 2 (85c) – *Clematis* sp.
Zone 2 (85c) – *Magnolia grandiflora*
Zone 2 (85c) – *Cleome speciosa*
Zone 2 (85c) – *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*

024



025



026

Zone 2 (85c) – *Plumeria rubra*
 Zone 2 (85c) – *Clitoria fernatea*
 Zone 2 (85c) – *Dendrobium moschatum*
 Zone 2 (85c) – *Passiflora edulis*
 Zone 2 (85c) – *Pereskia aculeata* and
Pereskia bleo

Zone 2 (85c) – *Capsicum baccatum*
 (B) Booklet (\$8.50): with se-tenant pane/
 block of ten Zone 2 stamps (5 x 2), plain white
 margins all round,
 Pane top row *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*; *Plumeria*
rubra; *Clematis*; *Magnolia grandiflora*;
Cleome speciosa
 Pane lower row *Pereskia aculeata* and *Pereskia*
bleo; *Capsicum baccatum*; *Dendrobium*
moschatum; *Passiflora edulis*

Notes: Charlotte Anna Lefroy was the wife of the
Governor of Bermuda, and made the botanical
paintings 1871-1877; they are now in the care
of the Bermuda National Trust and have recently
been exhibited

030 50th anniversary of The Bermuda Regiment, formed September 1, 1965, five values

Issue date: April 16, 2015; Designs: from
 photographs; Printer: not reported, offset;
 Perforations 14.1 x 13.9
 35c – Serviceman and felled tree
 70c – Servicemen in dinghy (coastal
 defence and rescue)
 80c – Band and Corps of
 Drums in procession
 \$1 – Inspection by Queen Elizabeth II
 \$1.75 – Trooping the Regimental Colours

ETHIOPIA

(previously listed in May 2014 issue)

031 Telecommunications Development, four values

Issue date: May 13, 2014; Design: Wegayehu
 Ayele; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations:
 14 x 13.75 (10c, 2Birr) or 13.75 x 14
 10c – Shepherd using radio telephone
 40c – Woman using wall telephone with
 remote handset
 2Birr – Students using a computer
 4Birr – Communications satellite over Earth
 showing Africa

032 Ethnic Groups of the South-Western Region of Ethiopia, four values

Issue date: May 27, 2014; Design: Bogale
 Belachew; Printer: ÖSD, Vienna;
 Perforations: 14 x 13.5
 15c – Karo man
 35c – Erbore woman
 2Birr – Hamer man
 4Birr – Dsananch man and two women

Notes: designs include a map locating the SW
Region within Ethiopia

033 Churches of Ethiopia (II), four values

Issue date: June 12, 2014;
 Design: Agegnehu Adane, from photographs;
 Printer: ÖSD, Vienna, offset; Perforations 14 x
 13.5 (50c and 1Birr) or 13.5 x 14
 50c – Church of Orra Kadanemihiret Zege
 (Tana region)
 1Birr – Church of Kibran Gebriel
 (Tana region)
 2Birr – Church of Debrebirhan Silassie
 (Gonder region)
 3Birr – Church of Axon-Tsium-Marian

034 Features of the Rift Valley's Afar Depression, six values

Issue date: August 26, 2014; Design: Bogale
 Belachew, from photographs; Printer: ÖSD,
 Vienna; Perforations 14 x 14
 25c – The Salt Sea of Dallol
 30c – Salt terraces, Dallol volcanic region
 35c – Deposits of crystallised salt, Dallol
 volcanic region
 45c – Lava eruption from the
 Erta Ale volcano
 65c – Volcanic emissions from vents in the
 craters of Erta Ale
 4Birr – Nighttime view of sea of lava in Erta
 Ala, in a crater

FRANCE

(previously listed in July 2015 issue)

035 Pilgrimage Routes to Santiago de Compostela, third series, four values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: March 14, 2014; Design: Noëlle Le
 Guillouez and Valérie Besser; Engraving: Claude
 Jumulet; Printer: PhilaPoste, recess and
 offset; Perforations: 13 x 13
 Miniature sheet – contains
 €0.83 – Via Lemovicensis (le chemin de
 Limoges): view of Cathedral of St
 John the Baptist, Bazas
 €0.83 – Via Podiensis (route du Puy-en-
 Velay): view of Moissac Abbey
 €0.83 – Via Tolosana (route de Toulouse):
 view of bridge over River Gers and
 Cathédrale Sainte-Marie, Auch
 €0.83 – Via Turonensis (route de Tours), view
 of vaulted archways beside the Pons
 Pilgrims Hostel

036 Alexandre Glais-Bizoin, 1800-1877, lawyer, politician and postal reformer, one value

Issue date: March 15, 2014; Design and
 engraving: Pierre Albuissou; Printer: PhilaPoste,

recess; Perforations: 13 x 13.3

€0.66 – Portrait of the socialist politician,
 also responsible for the introduction
 of a universal flat-rate postal
 delivery system in France, and
 advocate of rail links to
 Bretagne / Brittany

Notes: stamp shows photograph by J L Konkel,
1864, and the village of Château de Quintin
(birthplace in Brittany) also first train into
Brittany 1857

037 Animals. Bears, one value, and four values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: March 22, 2014; Design: Aurélie
 Baras, from illustrations by Olivier Tallec; Printer:
 PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations 13.3 x 13.1, or
 13.1 x 13.3 (stamps in miniature sheet)
 €0.61 – Giant Panda,
Ailuropoda melanoleuca
 Miniature sheet – contains (se-tenant,
 composite design)
 €0.61 – Giant Panda, *Ailuropoda*
melanoleuca
 €0.61 – Brown Bear, *Ursus arctos*
 €0.61 – Kermode Bear, *Ursus*
americanus kermodei
 €0.61 – Polar Bear, *Ursus maritimus*

038 France - People's Republic of China joint issue. River Scenes, two values

Issue date: March 27, 2014; Design and
 engraving: Yves Beaujard; Printer: PhilaPoste,
 France, offset; Perforations 12.9 x 13.2
 €0.60 – The Quinhua River, Nanking, China
 €0.99 – The Seine at Paris, France
 Issue commemorates fiftieth anniversary of
 diplomatic relations between the two countries

039 Contemporary Art. Joan Mitchell, 1925-1992, one value

Issue date: March 28, 2014; Design: Valérie
 Besser; Printer: PhilaPoste, offset;
 Perforations 13.1 x 13.1
 €1.65 – Untitled semi-abstract expressionist
 work by the American artist resident
 in Paris in the final years of her life,
 from the Pompidou Centre

040 Week for Action against Climate Change, April 1 to 7, 2014, twelve non-denominated self-adhesive stamps in a booklet

Issue date: April 3, 2014; Design: from
 captioned cartoons by France Dumas; Printer:
 PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations: die-cut 11.1;
 inscribed Lettre Verte 20g (€0.61)

Self-adhesive booklet (€7.32) with twelve
 stamps affixed to inside covers
 – (€0.61) Vendre et acheter d'occasion (sell



028



031



032



034



035



036

and buy second-hand items): object passing between hands

- (€0.61) Eteindre les appareils en veille (switch appliances to stand-by): sleeping radio set
- (€0.61) L'eau est précieuse, préservons-la (water is precious, preserve it): hands cupped under shower-head
- (€0.61) Pensons au covoiturage (consider carpooling): four people in open-topped car
- (€0.61) Du bio dans nos assiettes (put (environmentally produced food on our plates) : selection of fresh fruits and vegetables
- (€0.61) Fuite d'eau : Vite signalée, Vite réparée (report leaks soon, get them repaired quickly): drips falling on man
- (€0.61) Vive les transports en commun ! (hurray for public transport!): bus on road to town
- (€0.61) Economisons l'énergie (economise on energy usage): low-energy bulb
- (€0.61) Trions et recyclons le papier (sort and recycle paper). paper aeroplane, and flowers
- (€0.61) Maîtrisons la température ambiante (control room temperatures): house warm in winter, cool in summer)
- (€0.61) Vive l'éco conduite! (cheers for economical driving): car with flower-petals as exhaust
- (€0.61) Trouvons une seconde vie à nos déchets (find a second life for our waste): animal made from bits and pieces

041 Spring Stamp Salon (stamp exhibition and bourse) at Clermont-Ferrand, one value
Issue date: April 4, 2014; Design and engraving: Claude Andreotto; Printer: PhilaPoste, recess; Perforations: 13.2 x 13.2
€0.61 – Interior of l'Opéra-Théâtre de Clermont- Ferrand

Notes: the Opera house décor was designed by Teillard and sculpted by Gourguillon, 1894

042 Marguerite Duras, Writer, 1914-1996, one value
Issue date: April 4, 2014; Design: Sophie Beaujard; Engraving: Claude Jumulet; Printer: PhilaPoste, recess; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25
€1.10 – Portrait of the author and screenwriter, from photograph taken during her early years in French Indo-China

Notes: born Marguerite Donnadiou April 4, 1914 in Gia-Dinh (Saigon); first day of issue usage and cancels at Duras dated 04.04.2014; however

general release of this stamp took place on April 19, 2014

043 Caroline Aigle, Air Force Pilot, one value
Issue date: April 5, 2014; Design: Pierre-André Cousin; Engraving: Pierre Albuissou; Printer: PhilaPoste; Perforations: 13.1 x 12.9
€3.55 – Mirage 2000-5 fighter, and portrait of the first female pilot in the French Air Force (1999)

Notes: issued in sheets of forty, and in sheets of ten stamps with illustrated borders (badges and aircraft). Aigle, born 1974, died of an aggressive cancer in 2007

044 70th anniversary of the Seizure of Children, Teachers and Carers at the 'House of Izieu', one value
Issue date: April 6, 2014; Design: Stéphane Humbert-Basset; Engraving: Pierre Albuissou; Printer: PhilaPoste; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.2
€0.61 – Group picture of Jewish children outside the Izieu refuge and school, near Lyon

Notes: the school, run by Sabine Miron-Zlatin, operated as a refuge for Jewish children in Vichy France. The abductions were on the orders of Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie

045 The Capitals of Europe. Vienna, four values in a miniature sheet (with three labels)
Issue date: April 18, 2014; Design: Stéphane Levallois; Printer: PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations 13.3 x 12.9
Miniature sheet – contains
€0.66 – Palace of the Secession 1898 (art movement hall and studio)
€0.66 – Schloss Belvedere (baroque Palace)
€0.66 – Church of Saint Charles Boromée (known as the Karlskirche)
€0.66 – Vienna Hofburg (Imperial residence), and statue of Prince Eugène of Savoy
Labels depict pictures of women in Art Nouveau style

046 Great Moments in French History, third issue. The Battle of Bouvines, 1214, two values in a miniature sheet
Issue date: April 25, 2014; Design and engraving: Elsa Catelin; Printer: PhilaPoste, recess; Perforations: 13.1 (window stamp has round top)
Miniature sheet: two separately arranged stamps
€1.65 – Stained glass window depicting King Louis IX, born at Poissy 25 April, 1214
€1.65 – Battle of Bouvines, July 1214
Notes: in the battle of Bouvines Philippe Auguste

(the father of Louis IX) was victorious over alliance of the armies of England and the Holy Roman Empire

047 'Timbres Passion' Stamp Fair, Poitiers, one value with se-tenant label
Issue date: May 1, 2014; Design and engraving: Elsa Catelin; Printer: PhilaPoste; Perforations: 12.8 x 13.4
€0.61 – Palace of the Counts of Poitou and Dukes of Aquitaine
Label: portrait of Eleanor of Aquitaine (Queen of France, later Queen of England)

048 Vacances, twelve self-adhesive non-denominated values in a booklet
Issue date: May 3, 2014; Design: Henri Galeron (cartoons, showing various creatures taking a vacation); Printer: PhilaPost, gravure; Perforations: die-cut 13; stamps inscribed 'LETTRE VERTE 20g'
– (€0.61) – Dog in sunglasses, with ice lolly, on a beach
– (€0.61) – Snail with caravan instead of shell
– (€0.61) – Cockerel wearing headphones, with egg in egg-cup
– (€0.61) – Fish with surfboard
– (€0.61) – Crab on beach building a sandcastle
– (€0.61) – Two cats cuddling beneath illuminations
– (€0.61) – Ibex climbing a mountain-face
– (€0.61) – Pair of rabbits riding a tandem, their bunny riding on the rack
– (€0.61) – Two tortoises making merry (one playing guitar, one dancing)
– (€0.61) – Lobster on beach with fishing net, bucket, float-ring and flippers
– (€0.61) – Frogs riding in a swan pedalo
– (€0.61) – Ducks on a camping site

049 Europa 2014. Musical Instrument, one value
Issue date: May 4, 2014; Printer: PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations: 13 x 13
0.83€ – Harp (1787) made by Jean-Henri Naderman, 1735-1799

ISRAEL

(previously listed in March 2015 issue)

050 Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, one value
Issue date: September 28, 2014; Design: photograph by Israel Bardogo; Printer: Cartor, offset, in sheetlet of nine stamps + three tabs; Perforations: 13.3 x 13.3
2sh – The orthodox Rabbi in a library
Notes: jurist and theologian, served as Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv -Yafo, also member of High Rabbinical Court, and founder of the political party 'Shas'

051 Season's Greetings. Christmas, one self-adhesive vending machine label design
Issue date: November 25, 2014; Printed by letterpress, machine coding by thermography.
Imperf x perf 9

Self-adhesive vending machine label:
† – Stars over Mary and baby Jesus
Notes: multiple values available from machine; philatelic distribution principally of 1.80sh value

052 Gerbera (Flower) self-adhesive definitives, three values

Issue dates: November 25, 2014 (10ag), December 2, 2014 (5ag), January 15, 2015 (40ag) or February 5, 2015 (30ag and 1sh);
Design: Tuvia Kurz and Miri Nistor; Printer: not reported, flexography;

Perforations: die-cut 13.3 x 13.6

5ag – Gerbera flower in yellow

10ag – Gerbera flower in red

30ag – Gerbera flower in deep orange

40ag – Gerbera flower in white

1sh – Gerbera flower in deep magenta

Notes: printed in sheets of twenty stamps, and sold flat – the sheets fold to form 'booklets'.

These are the new printings in these designs

/ values, with print dates 11.11.2014 or

6.01.2015 given in the border also with appropriate print menorah designator

053 Hanukkah Festival, one value

Issue date: December 16, 2014; Design: Rinat Gilboa; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.25

9sh – Children with a menorah lamp bearing nine lit candles

Notes: printed in sheets of fifteen plus five tabs (fruits in a bowl)

054 Historic Sundials, three values

Issue date: December 16, 2014; Design: David Ben-Hador; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations 12.9 x 13.3

2.70sh – Sundial dated to 1st century AD in the Jewish quarter of old city Jerusalem (as reconstructed from pieces discovered 1970s)

3.10sh – Sundial in courtyard of Al Jezzar Mosque in Acre, constructed 1786

5.60sh – Sundial on south wall of Zoharer Charma Synagogue, Jaffa Street, Jerusalem, 1908

Notes: a set of three maximum cards (photographs) was also available

055 Arik Einstein, Singer-songwriter,

one value

Issue date: December 16, 2014; Design: Miri Nistor; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

1.80sh – Arik Einstein, 1939-2013, in performance

Notes: printed in sheetlets of nine stamps and three tabs (stamp and tab form composite design)

056 Orchids, one value

Issue date: December 16, 2014; Design: Zina and Zvika Roitman; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.2 x 12.9. Sheets of fifteen stamps and five tabs

5sh – Bee Orchid, *Ophrys fuciflora* and Monkey Orchid, *Dracula simia*

Notes: joint issue with Ecuador. Tabs depict the flags of the two countries, as ribands

057 Israel's Automobile Industry (vehicles manufactured in Israel), four values

Issue date: December 16, 2014; Design: Piri Hamou, from his own photographs of cars owned by Israeli collectors; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.2

3.80sh – Standard Carmel, manufactured by Palestine Motors Company at Haifa Bay 1936

4.00sh – Sabra Sport, manufactured by Autocars to design of the Reliant Sabre, 1961

4.10sh – Kaiser Manhattan, manufactured at Neshet to Kaiser USA design, 1951 to 1953

8.30sh – Safa Jeep, manufactured by AIL in Nazareth Ilit, 1992 to 2014

Notes: no Standard Carmel from 1937 being extant, the 3.80sh depicts a car of 1946, practically identical, built by Standard in Britain

058 Commemorating Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister, one value

Issue date: January 27, 2015; Design: Zvika Roitman; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

2.10sh – Ariel Sharon, 1928-2014, Prime Minister of Israel 2001 to 2006

Notes: printed in sheets of nine stamps and three tabs, the stamp and tab forming a composite design

059 Friendship between Israel and the Philippines, one value

Issue date: January 27, 2015; Design: Ronen Goldberg; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.3 x 12.9

4.50sh – Flags of Israel and the Philippine Republic, and Open Doors monument at Memorial Gardens in Rishon Le Zion, Israel

Tab depicts arrow connecting Europe to Philippines on a map (noting refugees from central Europe taken by Philippines in late 1930s)
Notes: Philippines were the only Asian country

voting in favour of Israel's formation at the United Nations on November 29, 1947. Joint issue with Philippines Post

JAMAICA

(previously listed in January 2014 issue)

060 350 Years of St Andrew's Parish Church, three values and one value in a

miniature sheet

Issue date: December 15, 2014; Designs: from photographs; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14.75

\$20 – St Andrew's Church from outside Church Gate

\$60 – Church from beyond churchyard wall

\$1.20 – Church seen from churchyard gate

Miniature sheet \$200 – Stained glass windows

MONTSERRAT

(previously listed in June 2015 issue)

061 The Leatherback Sea Turtle, four values in a sheetlet and one value in a miniature sheet

Issue date: March 24, 2015; Design: I-GPC, from photographs; Printer: C & C Security Printers, China; Perforations 14 x 14.

Sheetlet – contains

\$3.25 – Leatherback Turtle underwater

\$3.25 – Leatherback Turtle in shallows

\$3.25 – Female Leatherback Turtle crawling down beach to sea

\$3.25 – Leatherback Turtle swimming

Miniature sheet \$7 – Hatchling leatherback turtle heading across sand to ocean

NEW ZEALAND

(previously listed in July 2015 issue)

062 175th anniversary of the Treaty of Waitangi, one value in a miniature sheet

Issue date: February 4, 2015; Design: Rangi Kipa, Te Atiawa, Taranaki Tuturu and Roy McDougall, using motifs from the Waitangi crown (five shilling coin) of 1935; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset; Perforations: 13.9 x 13.3

Miniature sheet \$2.50 – Ngapuhi Chief Tamati Waka Nene and the first Governor of New Zealand, William Hobson

Border depicts Maori pattern featuring fish scales and rat tails

Notes: the Treaty was agreed on 6 February, 1840, at Waitangi, Bay of Islands; it was then circulated around 540 different Maori chiefs over both islands for their agreement.

063 ICC World Cricket Cup Finals 2015, Australia and New Zealand, fourteen circular



037



038



039



045



050



053



054



055



057



061

format self-adhesive values in a sheetlet
Issue date: February 4, 2015; Design: NZ Post, Wellington; Printer: Southern Colour Print, offset; Die-cut to smooth edged circle – stamps are set withing rectangular rouletted labels
Sheetlet: three rows of designs (4, 4, and 6) plus four labels

All stamps and labels carry the 'Batsman' logo of the tournament, and the national flag or emblem of one of the competing teams, as given, against a different colour background
80c – Batsman logo and Indian flag
80c – Batsman logo and England flag
80c – Batsman logo and South African flag
80c – Batsman logo and Pakistan flag
80c – Batsman logo and United Arab Emirates emblem
80c – Batsman logo and Sri Lankan flag
80c – Batsman logo and West Indies Cricket Federation emblem

80c – Batsman logo and Afghanistan flag
80c – Batsman logo and Irish shamrock emblem
80c – Batsman logo and Bangladesh flag
80c – Batsman logo and Australian flag
80c – Batsman logo and New Zealand flag
80c – Batsman logo and Zimbabwe flag
80c – Batsman logo and Scottish

064 Centenary of the Great War, second issue : the Spirit of ANZAC – The Gallipoli Campaign 1915, ten values printed in a sheetlet and also in sheets of 24 and in miniature sheets and a booklet

Issue date: March 23, 2015;
Design: Strategy Design & Advertising, after archive photographs and documents;
Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset;
Perforations: 14.4 x 14.6 (sheet of ten)

Sheetlet (two rows of five stamps se-tenant) –
80c – Serving her country – photograph of nurse Evelyn Brooke, nurse who served in Samoa, Egypt, on the Malerno, New Zealand, England and France
80c – Postcard with Egyptian pyramids franked with sphinx stamp, sent from Mounted Rifles Brigade FPO, February 1915
80c – ANZAC troops making first landing on Gallipoli peninsula (Ottoman Turkey), 25 April, 1915 at 'ANZAC Cove'
\$2 – *The Sapper and his Donkey:* transporting wounded, a watercolour painting by Horace Moore-Jones
\$2.50 – Departure hospital ship the Maheno which left Wellington for Egypt and Gallipoli in July 1915 (painting)
80c – Chunuk Bair: summit of a ridge in Gallipoli held by Wellington Battalion for just two days 8 to 10 August, 1915 ,

from painting by Ian Brown (1990)
80c Fundraising drive in New Zealand to support disabled and recovering soldiers: lights spelling out HELP OUR WOUNDED
80c Stained glass window in Chapel at Christchurch hospital 1927-1928, showing nurse and soldier, which commemorates the loss of the troopship Marquette
\$2.00 Government notice for War Census of 1915, conducted prior to introduction of conscription in 1916
\$2.50 Poster by Australian soldier Otho Hewett included with *The ANZAC Book* by CE Bean, an account of Gallipoli first published early 1916: soldiers with flags

Miniature sheet: contains 80c x six different, designs as in sheetlet of ten (above)

Miniature sheet: contains \$2 x two different, and \$2.50 x two different, designs as in sheetlet of ten (above)

Postal sheet of 24 (6 x 4): contains 80c x 24, each of six designs x four times over
Postal sheet of 24 (6 x 4): contains \$2.00 painting The Sapper and His Donkey x 12 and h \$2.00 War Census notice x 12
Postal sheet of 24 (6 x 4): contains \$2.50 The ANZAC Book x 12 and \$2.50 hospital ship Maheno x 12

Stamp Booklet (sold at NZ\$39.90): contains ten 'miniature sheet' panes each with one design/ value (80c x 6; \$2.00 x 2; \$2.50 x 2)

Notes: the format / layout of this annual issue follows that of the first issue in the series (1914) (issued July 29, 2014, listed in Stamp & Coin Mart January 2015 issue). The 48-page booklet mimics the format of a 1915 soldier's pocket book, and has text by Mark di Somma, detailing the ANZAC Gallipoli campaign and the wartime experiences of Nurse Evelyn Brooke (who is shown on the cover)

065 ANZAC 2015, New Zealand and Australia joint commemorative issue, two values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: April 7, 2015; Design: Australia Post Design Studio, Melbourne; Printer: McKellar Renown, Australia; Perforations: 14.5 x 13.8 (A) stamps from sheets of 25
80c – Catafalque sentry and bugler, and view of Anzac Cove, plus flowers of golden wattle
\$2 – Catafalque sentry and bugler and shoreline of Anzac Cove, plus silver fern emblem (of NZ Post)

(B) Miniature sheet (se-tenant pair) –
80c and \$2 as sheet stamps but forming composite design

066 New Zealand Native Sea Shells, five values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: May 6, 2015; Design: NZ Post, Wellington; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations: 13.9 x 13.9
80c – Silver paua, *Halotis australis*
\$1.40 – Scott's murex, *Rolandietta scotti*
\$2.00 – Golden volute, *Provocator mirabilis*
\$2.50 – Fan shell, *Talochlamys gemmulata*
\$3.00 – Opal top shell, *Cantharidus opalus*
Miniature sheet – contains the five values as sheet stamp designs and values

NIUE

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

067 Niue Fish, miniature sheet with four values

Issue date: June 18, 2014; Design: NZ Post; Printer: NZ Post Collectables, digital print; Perforations 13.3 x 13.3
Design: NZ Post; Printer: NZ Post Collectables, digital print; Perforations 13.3 x 13.3
Miniature sheet – contains (se-tenant) 30c – Whitemouth moray, *Gymnothorax meleagris*;
\$1.40 – Orangefin anemonefish, *Amphiprion cyrsopterus*; \$2.00 – Fire dartfish (or fire goby), *Nemateleotris magnifica*; \$4.00 – Longnose butterflyfish, *Forcipiger longirostris*

Notes: this listing is additional to the set of four stamps (in February 2015 issue)

068 Definitives. A Scenic Tour of Niue, eight values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: October 18, 2014; Design: NZ Post, after photographs; Printer: Southern Colour Print, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14.4
20c – Talava Arches (rock arches on beach-front cliffs)
30c – Mutalau (coastal chasm)
\$1.00 – Avaiki Caves
\$1.20 – Lakepa village church
\$1.40 – Golf course
\$1.70 – Huvalu Forest
\$2.00 – Tepa Point (coastal panorama)
\$4.00 – Togo Chasm (coastal formation)
Miniature sheet – contains the eight values se-tenant
Border depicts outline of island of Niue and its geographical co-ordinates

069 Christmas 2014, four values and a miniature sheet depicting Christmas tree baubles bearing traditional tapa bark cloth patterns
Issue date: December 10, 2014; Design: New Zealand Post, Wellington. NZ Post Collectables, digital print; Perforations 13.3 x 13.3
30c – Blue tree baubles
\$1.40 – Red tree baubles
\$2.00 – Green tree baubles
\$4.00 – Purple tree baubles
Miniature sheet – contains the four values in a se-tenant strip
Border depicts tapa bark cloth patterns

070 Niue Hiapo' (Tapa Bark Cloth patterns), four values
Issue date: April 7, 2015; Design: New Zealand Post, Wellington. NZ Post Collectables, digital print; Perforations 13.33 x 13.33
30c – Tapa pattern with squares and leaf shapes
\$1.00 – Tapa pattern with grid and foliage
\$2.00 – Tapa wheel and spoke pattern
\$1.40 – Tapa with diamond pattern
Miniature sheet – contains the four values in a se-tenant strip

NORFOLK ISLAND

(previously listed in March 2015 issue)

071 35 Years of Norfolk Island QUOTA Club (charitable body), three values
Issue date: August 13, 2014; Design: Mary Pavicich, from photographs of Norfolk Island; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset; Perforations: 13.9 x 14.1
15c – Barbecue table overlooking Emily Bay, Kingston
70c – Telescope mounted at Queen Elizabeth Lookout (with Phillip Island in background)
\$3.20 – Memorial Seat in memorial park

072 100 Years of the Red Cross operating on Norfolk Island, one value in a miniature sheet
Issue date: September 29, 2014; Design: Mary Pavicich; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations: 13.9 x 14.1
Miniature sheet \$3.50 – Red Cross poster depicting family of four and pine trees, captioned Hope for all Mankind in War and Peace

073 The Norfolk Island Pine, Araucaria heterophylla, ten self-adhesive values in a booklet
Issue date: September 29, 2014; Design: Mary Pavicich, after photographs; Printer: Southern

Colour Print, NZ;
Perforations: die-cut 10 x 10.75
Self-adhesive booklet (\$7.00) – contains
70c – Branches of Norfolk pine against rosy clouds
70c – Young pine cones, still growing
70c – Seedlings of Norfolk pine
70c – Plantation of (mature) Norfolk pines
70c – Seeds lying by burst pine cone
70c – Branches of a Norfolk pine (illustrating their geometric uniformity)
70c – Pine needles on forest floor
70c – Trunk of an ancient Norfolk pine
70c – New shoots coming from a cropped pine tree

Booklet cover depicts pine plantation

PITCAIRN ISLANDS

(previously listed in April 2015 issue)

074 75th anniversary of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition's Visit to Pitcairn, December 13 to 14, 1939, four values
Issue date: December 11, 2014; Design: Denise Durkin; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations 14.5 x 14
\$1.00 – Rear Admiral Richard E Byrd, USN, meeting Pitcairn islanders, and cachet from special cover produced for visit of USMS *North Star*
\$1.00 – Expedition vessel USMS *North Star* off Pitcairn, and one of the two special covers produced, franked with Pitcairn stamps
\$2.00 – Pullman Snow Cruiser (one of the experimental vehicles taken to the Antarctic), and USMS *North Star*
\$2.00 – Rear of Pullman Snow Cruiser and Richard E Byrd in fur hat

Notes: the four designs were in a se-tenant horizontal strip across the sheet with a central label showing Byrd talking to an islander. The expedition was able to replenish Pitcairn's supplies, which were falling short due to lack of visiting vessels

075 The Red Lionfish, Pterois volitans, of Oeno and Ducie Islands, three values in a miniature sheet
Issue date: February 28, 2015; Design: Sue Wickison. Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset; Perforations 14 x 14
Miniature sheet – contains \$2 – head-on view of red lionfish; \$2 – red lionfish facing left; \$2 – red lionfish facing downwards to left

076 'Pitcairn on Canvas'. 19th century paintings, four values
Issue date: April 20, 2015; Design: Denise Durkin. Printer: litho, Southern Colour Print, NZ;

Perforations: 14.5 x 14.3
\$1.00 – Interior of Pitcairn (1830) by F W Beechey, 1796-1856
\$2.00 – Pitcairn (view from offshore) by E Low, painted c.1808
\$2.10 – *Thursday October Christian's House*, painted by Conway Shipley, 1824-1888
\$3.00 – *Landing in Bounty Bay* by F W Beechey (1830)

TOKELAU

(previously listed in March 2015 issue)

077 Kilihimahi (Christmas) 2014, three values and a miniature sheet
Issue date: December 10, 2014; Design: NZ Post, Wellington; Printer: NZ Post Collectables, Whanganui, digital print; Perforations: 13.33 x 13.33
45c – The Shepherds
\$2.00 – Jesus Mary and Joseph
\$3.00 – Three Wise Men
Miniature sheet – contains the three values se-tenant

078 Traditional Tokelau Fishing Techniques, four values
Issue date: April 7, 2015; Design: NZ Post, Wellington; NZ Post Collectables, Whanganui, digital print; Perforations: 13.33 x 13.33
45c – Paddling for atu (skipjack), and rods
\$1.40 – Netting for laulau (moorish idols), convict tang
\$2.00 – Scoop netting for manini (convict tang), and scoop net
\$3.00 – Noosing for pala (wahoo), and noose
Miniature sheet – contains the four values se-tenant

VATICAN CITY

(previously listed in May 2015 issue)

079 Beatification of Pope Paul VI, one value in a sheetlet of four
Issue date: August 28, 2014; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13
Sheetlet – contains
€0.70 x 4 copies (2 x 2) – Giovanni Battista Montini, 1897-1978, who became Paul VI, Pope from 1963-1978

080 400th anniversary of the death of Saint Camillus de Lellis, 1550-1614, one value
Issue date: August 28, 2014; Design: after painting, attributed to Sabastiano Conca, from Church of St Mary Magdalene, Rome; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5
€0.70 – St Camillus amongst those stricken by the Plague



067



069

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SAM.1. POLAND - small general collection, include - Nazi Occupation Concentration Camp issue inscribed 'Judenpost' for Lodz Ghetto (Litzmanst) 10pf Green (unused). We cannot guarantee this item but remainder of the collection all seem OK
Cheap Price £8.75

SJ120 MEDICAL Stamps with specialised lot of Anti-TB and Red Cross stamps. Also Anti-Malaria stamps Red Cross stamps back to the 1940s or earlier up to more recent. With nursing, doctors and all forms of medicine. A most interesting subject rarely offered for sale ideal for anyone with some medical knowledge to form a valuable collection Price £7

SJ42 ZEPPELINS: Impressive thematic collection of Zeppelins on stamps with airships & balloons. about 100 stamps.....Price £5

G.114 A WORLDWIDE COVERS & FDC'S Fantastic Accumulation of Commercial & Philatelic covers & FDC's including special pmks, early to modern with Air Mails, Sea Mail, commemorative covers, noted designer signed. Local posts, Islands Post, an unsorted group of about 100 covers.....Price £21

G85 CARS ON STAMPS. Impressive thematic collection the ideal collection for anyone interested in automobiles, all sorts from vintage classics to super speed racing cars. Several hundred different cars on stampsPrice £11

SAM.26 AUSTRIA & HUNGARY - Mostly used, some mint, several hundred diff.....Price £8

G126 WORKS OF ART. The rarities of the world's most famous art galleries at your fingertips. A superb collection of famous paintings on stamps, over a thousand different not counting duplicates or miniature sheetsPrice £21

RS2a UNIFORMS. Mainly military. Hundreds different.....Price £12

Let K2 GREAT BRITAIN. UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted include Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error coil strips. Well over 500 stamps, only unmounted mint Price £18

R45 MINIATURE SHEETS & Souvenir Sheets, various different GB (Exhibition sheets) FOREIGN, odd Brit. Commonwealth. Total of 50+ different (Mainly Foreign) Min sheetsPrice £8

SJ132 GREAT BRITAIN. British Postal Strike 1971 - Emergency Overprints on Local Carriage Labels printed by Harrison and Sons for Use in Southampton. The complete unmm. Mint set of six stamps 3 x 1/-, 2/-, 6/-, 7/6dPrice £150

G23A OLYMPIC GAMES Enormous lot, not counting duplicates, there must be over 500 stamps-an outstanding collection Price £11

NY146 ENTOMOLOGY: One of the most unusual thematic subjects we have ever seen, insects on stamps. Hundreds of them Price £7

R.49 SOUTH EAST ASIA - enormous lot, with some complete sheets unmm. mint, mass of singles. Dates back to 1898, to modern mainly different used stamps. About 1600-1700 stamps of which at least 1300 must be different Price £32

SJ53a BARDSEY ISLAND. (Welsh Local Issue) A superb specialised group of Unmounted Mint (complete sets) Stamps from this small Welsh Island rarely get offered for sale Price £7.00

OFFER A - From the remainder of a Liquidated Stamp Dealer's stock, a massive amount including sheets. Great Britain including Locals, British Commonwealth, Foreign, Mint used covers, FDC and pre packs. We counted up to £1,500 worth of cat value and then got tired and gave up counting. Clearance PricePrice £75.00

NY124 THE THREE KINGS King George V, King ED. VII and King George VI. A collection of British Colonials. UNMOUNTED MINT STAMPS. In singles and blocks. Approximately 100+ stamps, low price to clear.....Price £12.00

EUR 33 EUROPA - A specialised European thematic Collection of Europa stamps, spanning from the 1950's to more modern stamps. Includes Italy, France, Germany, Iceland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Netherlands, G.B. Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Swiss, Finland, Greece, Sweden. Also scarcer local issues for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Hundreds of all different Europa Stamps, mainly fine used, but mini noted.....Price £17

FR 229 FRANCE & COLS - A smashing collection of France with French Colonies & Ex Colonies. Mainly Commemorative stamps in singles and blocks. Some unmounted mint, but mostly fine used. A lovely collection with many engraved stamps; several hundreds, mostly differentPrice £21

BX 486 BOXING - A fine collection of Boxing Stamps Over 80 Stamps in blocks and singles, including champion boxers such as Muhammad Ali. Mainly fine cto used, mint noted, with Great Britain Royal Mail 2012 Olympic Games Gold Medal Boxing Stamps.....Price £9.75

HP 19A IRAQ WAR COVER - Extremely rare War in Iraq commemorative cover for the fall of Tikrit. Only 150 of this cover, depicting Saddam Hussein, ever existed. We understand many were damaged and destroyed, it is likely on a few covers survived. The cover bears a GB QEII stamp, postmarked with circular London SHC 15 April 2003 Pmk. Together with Iraq stamp overprinted "In British Occupation" This stamp is tied to the cover with a rectangular "Liberation of Iraq 15-04-03 THE FALL OF TIKRIT". Cachet in purple. A very rare Iraq War Cover in superb condition Price £26

LU 328 LUNDY ISLAND - A superb collection of unmounted mint British local stamps of Lundy Island in blocks, large multiples and singles + miniature sheet. Starts off with King George VI period. "Lundy & Atlantic Coats Air Lines Ltd. "Following on to puffin stamps overprinted with 1950s & 1960s stamps on to more recent. With lots of "Puffin" stamps, definitives, commemoratives & Air Mail stamps. Hundreds of unmounted mint Lundy Stamps...Price £27.50

B COM 434 ORNITHOLOGY - A fantastic thematic collection of British Commonwealth BIRDS stamps. Only Unmounted Mint in multiples and single stamps. Several Hundred Brit, Commonwealth Bird Stamps including High Value (£) pound & (\$) Dollar stamps in blocks....Price £39

CR 781 CRICKET - A valuable specialised collection of cricket stamps & scarce cricket covers, including signed covers autographed by famous cricketers. Comprising of Unmounted Mint Great Britain and British Commonwealth Stamps in blocks of four or singles with several high value (\$) Dollar values. Approx 18 cricket covers including scarce autographed covers & a quantity of Unmm. Mint Cricket StampsPrice £25

PM 84 MARGARET THATCHER - The very scarce mourning cover for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. One of the scarcest political covers. Only 50 ever in existence, mostly now in collectors hands and rarely offered for sale. With "Iron Lady" illustration and official Royal Mail 8th April 2013. Big Ben postmark price.....Price £13.25

FA16 - FALKLAND ISLANDS Scarce Referendum Cover - A rare and unusual cover for the Falkland Islands Referendum. The illustrated Falklands flag cover is inscribed 11/3/2013 Falkland Islanders vote on Self Determination. The cover bears a British Q.E.2. stamp with double penguin postmark dates 11/3/2013 Shetland P.O. It also has a Falkland Is. referendum stamp and Argentine War "Malvinas" ovpt stamp, both tied to the cover with Green Cachet "Falklands Referendum NO to Malvinas. 99.8% vote in favour of remaining with U.K. 11/3/2013" only 50 of rare covers are known to existPrice £18.50

PER 5 - PERSIA & IRAN - A fine collection of several hundred Persia & Iran stamps, includes mint and used dating back to early engraved "Shah" stamps to more modern issues. Several Hundred different stamps, a good collection to build uponPrice £14

C545 - WORLD COLLECTION - A great starter lot, with mint & used stamps also noted: miniature sheets, phq cards and several fdc's. Several hundred different world wide stamps plus other items Low price to clearPrice £9.75

GB.51 - GREAT BRITAIN SCARCE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN COMMEM. Cover. Bearing the Abram Games stamp designer official Royal Mail Commem. Stamp cancelled with iconic Festival of Britain 25/3/14 Postmark. The cover also bears the complete King George VI 1951 Festival stamps with black cachet "G.P.O. 1951 Festival of Britain Official Stamp Issue" The edition was limited to only 100 of these important coversPrice £11.25

MC.334 - MUSIC - An awesome & valuable collection of music stamps begins with an orchestra of musical instrument stamps. The specialist classical section includes: Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Bartok. Also jazz and pop music stamps, with Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Oasis, Marlene Dietrich. With G.B. Royal Mail stamps of Freddy Mercury, The Beatles and Pink Floyd. A multiple of other issues for Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Michael Jackson, Kylie Minogue, Elvis Presley and many more- Hundreds of stamps - mint and used with several miniature sheets. The best Music collection we have ever seenPrice £29.25

J18 GREAT BRITAIN SCARCE WORLD WAR I COVER - A scarce commemorative cover for the Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the accepted incident that initiated World War I. The cover bears GB Royal Mail, British Legion commem issue with official Royal Mail postmark inscribed: "Outbreak of World War I - 1914 - 1918 Westminster Abbey dated 1/1/2014" Additionally the cover also bears Austro Hungarian military stamp with blue cachet "Bosnien Herzegovina Franz Ferdinand 1914 - 2014 Sarajevo" The Scarce cover was a severely restricted issue of only 75 covers and hard to locatePrice £15

KG VL 23 KENYA, UGANDA & TANGANYIKA. King George VI impressive Stamp Error. The 1c. Black & Red Brown Flamingo definitive stamp with impressive colour shift of the black colour (King George VI head) shifted to the left revealing a white area on the right of the oval frames interior superb unmm. Mint King George VI errorPrice £4.75

SW.86 SWITZERLAND - A great starter collection to build upon of fine used Swiss mainly Commemorative stamps. 100 + All different.....Price £7

UN. 872 UNITED NATIONS - A lovely collection of only unmounted mint stamps, many in sets. Contains several plate number blocks as well as single stamps. Approx. 120 Mint United Nations stamps plus Miniature SheetsPrice £9.80

W64 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL - This must be one of the scarcest Winston Churchill covers, as less than 70 were ever issued for the 50th Anniv. of Churchill's Death. It is illustrated with iconic portrait of Churchill as a young man. The cover carries the famous quote by HM Queen Elizabeth II. Bearing Royal Mail Churchill stamps with a combination of different illustrated official Royal Mail postmarks for the 1st day of issue on 14/10/14 (Prime Minister Pmk.) and unusually re-postmarked on 24/1/2015 for the 50th Anniv. of Churchill's death. The cover is highly collectable due to its historic and political importancePrice £23.50

GB 93 CONCORDE - An essay for the 1959 G.P.O Concorde stamp. A submitted design for the 4d demoniation in blue unwatermarked, imperforate with large margin - unmounted mint essay ex-exhibition sheet Price £12

AF 21 AFRICA - A massive collection of Africa including mint and used stamps and Miniature Sheets. Countries noted include: Tunisia, Mozambique Company, Ghana including overprints on Gold Coast. Tanzania, Belgium Congo, South Africa, Rwanda, Cameroun, S.W. Africa, Lesotho, French Somali coast, Sudan, Sierra Leone - plus many others. A glorious collection of over 500 stamps, mostly all different singles with some unmounted mint blocksPrice £29

BW 347 BRITISH WEST INDIES - An excellent collection of mainly unmounted mint British West Indies Stamps. Including: St Christopher Nevis & Anguilla, Antigua, Grenada, St Vincent, Cayman Islands, St Lucia & others. Also includes PHQ cards and F.D.C's, including first day cover signed by stamp designer and also scarce proof stamps and progressive proof stamps Price £22

BH 44 BHUTAN - The collection from the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan comprises solely of unmounted mint stamps with blocks and singles and miniature sheets. A glorious lot of well over 100 unmounted mint stampsPrice £11.50

GS 9L GRAF SPEE - The very scarce WWII Commemorative Cover for the 75th Anniv. of the scuttling of the pocket battle ship Graf Spee. Captain Hans Langsdorff scuttled the ship in full view of 20,000 onlookers before he shot and killed himself. The cover bears two submarine stamps with B.F.P.O. Battle of the River Plate pmk. dated 13 Dec. 14., and also the scarce Royal Crown and Lion pmk. Dated 17 Dec 2014 on the Anniv. date. It is understood that only 60 of this scarce cover exists Price £18.50

B. 832 BRITISH AFRICA - A superb collection of only unmounted mint stamps from British Africa. Countries noted include: South Africa, Zambia, Ghana, Bechuanaland, Transkei, South West Africa, Zimbabwe, Gambia, Rhodesia, Lesotho, Tanzania & Swaziland with blocks and singles, hundreds of unmounted mint stampsPrice £17.25

POL. 14 MARGARET THATCHER - One of the scarcest political covers ever. Issued to commemorate the 40th Anniv. of Margaret Thatcher becoming Leader of the Conservative Party in 1975. The first woman to lead a British Political party. The important cover bears British Margaret Thatcher stamps with (Royal Mail) "Iron Lady" Grantham Prime Minister pmk. Dated 14/10/2014 as well as the scarce Big Ben Anniv. postmark dated 11/2/2015. This cover which is mostly in collectors hands is rarely offered for sale..... Price £23

RA. 8 DESERT RATS WAR COVER - A Sought after British Cover issued for the 70th Anniv. of the Desert Rats Battle for Miglano on 1/12/1944. The cover depicts Miglano and the iconic Desert Rat Emblem, it bears the British Spitfire Commemorative with scarce B.F.P.O 3181 Desert Rats 7th Armoured Brigade Postmark. On the Anniv. Date 1/12/14. Most of this scarce cover are now in specialist collections Recommended at our Price of £12.50

HRH. R3 KING RICHARD III - An important historic cover issued for the reburial of Richard III "The Last Plantagenet King of England". The cover depicts King Richard who was buried at Leicester Cathedral 530 years after his death at the battle of Bosworth Field. Only 60 of this scarce covers are in existence. The historic cover bears the British Royal Lion stamp postmarked with the official Royal Mail illustrated "Rest in Peace" Leicester Cathedral Pmk. on 26/3/2015. Few available..... Price £16

SC. 94 SPANISH COLONIES AND SPAIN - A super collection of Spain with strength in Spanish Colonies mint and used in singles and blocks, including scarce unmounted mint blocks dating back to 1899. Noted, postal workers charity issues and Spanish Civil War. 120+ stamps Price £15

SH. 73 SHETLAND ISLANDS - Impressive cover for "Up-Helly-AA" The Viking Fire festival at Lerwick, when a Viking long boat is set on fire. The cover bears the Shetland Island Local Stamps depicting Vikings and a blazing Viking ship tied to the cover with Hildasay - Shetland Island cachet in blue, in combination with Royal Mail Stamp postmarked with the Celtic "Up-Helly-AA" Lerwick pmk Price £13.25

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Gold and silver coins included in Waterloo Dispatch re-enactment

A range of gold and silver coins was recently carried in a treasure chest as part of The New Waterloo Dispatch, a ceremonial re-enactment of the journey that the Duke of Wellington's message of victory over Napoleon took from the Waterloo battlefield to the Prince Regent at St James's Square.

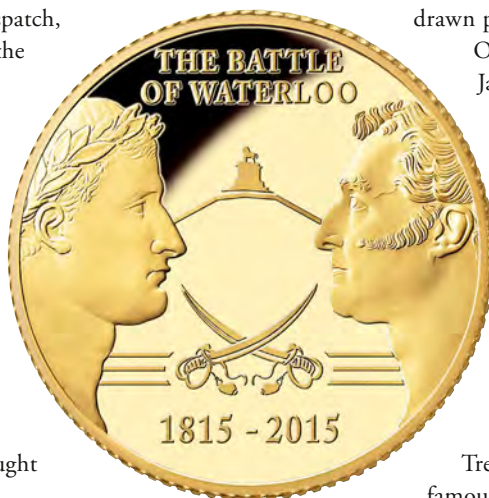
The Waterloo Treasure Chest, containing gold and silver medals and coins provided by The London Mint Office and produced by Worcestershire Medal Service, travelled from the Waterloo battlefield on Friday 19 June, accompanying a presentation document celebrating 'the Battle of Waterloo's lasting legacy of peace' and replicas of the two Imperial Eagles and Standards that were captured from the French armies and brought to London in the original Waterloo Dispatch.

The journey was made by two re-enactors playing the roles of Major Henry Percy and Commander James White RN who

carried the original victory message, travelling in a horse-drawn post chaise.

Once the Waterloo Treasure Chest arrived at St James's on 21 June, each medal and coin was given a certificate signed by Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter and Tim Cooke, Co-Chairmen of Waterloo 200, to confirm that they travelled on the New Waterloo Dispatch to London, exactly 200 years after the original journey. The limited edition medals and coins will then be available for purchase by the public, with a proportion of the sales being donated to Waterloo 200 to fund its ongoing education programme.

Amongst the historic products in the Waterloo Treasure Chest are Benedetto Pistrucci's world famous Waterloo Medal, a £10 coin in pure gold, featuring the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte, and a Waterloo Campaign Medal, in both silver and bronze.



TALKING TOKENS

A labourer's pass

Cast an eye over the skyscrapers that presently occupy the London Docklands district and you may come up with a few choice words to sum up the bankers who ply their trade there. All the big players in the major banking scandals that have come to light during the past decade have (or had) headquarters in the area. Their multi-million pound office blocks have altered the landscape and skyline to such an extent we can scarcely recall that this was once a workplace for several thousand men, and a handful of women, who toiled as casual day labourers in West India Docks in the early 1800s.

The story of the docks began in the 1790s when wealthy Jamaica sugar plantation owner Robert Milligan returned to London with a view to improving facilities for ships bringing his sugar from the West Indies into the Thames. Managers of riverside wharves in the area informed the newcomer that pilfering from ships' cargoes was regarded as fair compensation for the pittance wages and lack of job security endured by the dockers. His plans to stamp out the practices were, they told him, doomed to failure.

Milligan believed otherwise and set about winning the support of a substantial group of

riverside employers and ship owners for his vision of a new dock capable of handling the largest ships, with all wharves securely enclosed within a high perimeter wall. Entrances would be as tightly controlled as prison gates: nobody allowed in without a pass, nor allowed out without a body search.

Milligan's forceful personality drove the entire project to completion within three years. An Act of Parliament passed in 1802 compelled all vessels in the West Indies trade to use the newly opened West India Docks. Attempts by dockers to gain access by climbing the walls were dealt with severely by a newly recruited docks police force.

Labourers engaged for a day's work were each given a numbered metal pass which had to be prominently worn at all times and handed back to a guard on the gate before the labourer was allowed his freedom.

Did the new and very tight security put a stop to dockers' perks? No. It encouraged them to devise alternative ways of adding a little to their family's food resources. One way involved hurling weighted coconuts over the wall so that they landed and swiftly sank in the Thames. A few hours later boys might be observed mudlarking as the tide went out; probing with their bare toes to find... well, would you believe it?... A coconut!



Day labourer's pass. Wearing it did not prevent him throwing a coconut over the dock's security wall

Edith Cavell honoured by Royal Mint

The heroic nurse Edith Cavell, who helped more than 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-held territories in the First World War, is to be honoured by The Royal Mint.

Edith will feature on one of a set of six coins released to mark the centenary of the First World War, telling stories from outbreak to armistice.

The coin depicts a scene with the Edith tending to a wounded soldier with a portrait-style design of the nurse in her uniform as the background. Inspired by the words of Laurence Binyon's poem, 'Edith Cavell', the coin's inscription reads 'SHE FACED THEM GENTLE AND BOLD'.

When war broke out in August 1914, Cavell formed a Red Cross hospital in Brussels and nursed wounded soldiers, both German and Belgian. On 5 August 1915, she was arrested along with five of her associates and brought to trial on 7 October. She was executed by firing squad just five days later, on the orders of the Governor General of Brussels.

The design for the Cavell coin was created by sculptor David Cornell who has undertaken a number of commissions for The Royal Mint, including a coin honouring British Army officer Walter Tull which featured in the introductory First World War six-coin set which was released in 2014. David said: 'This is a brave, devoted woman, who chose to sacrifice herself to help the injured and the dying. My design shows Edith caring for an injured soldier but also looking over her shoulder to make sure the coast is clear to help the wounded soldier escape.'



New War Memorial features Waterloo Campaign medal

A new war memorial to honour the 24,000 soldiers of the Anglo-Allied and Prussian forces who were injured, died or went missing during the Battle of Waterloo, was recently unveiled by the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo station.

The centrepiece of the memorial is a giant replica of the reverse of the Waterloo Campaign medal, depicting Nike, the Greek Goddess of Victory. A bronze version of the medal was given away free with the July issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*.

Experts in medals and coins, The London Mint Office cast the medal centrepiece in solid bronze to a diameter of 65cm. The memorial also features a tribute to the fallen soldiers carved across four inlaid Portland Stone slabs, incorporating the Iron Duke's famous quotation: 'My heart is broken by the terrible loss I have sustained in my old friends and companions and my poor soldiers. Believe me, nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won.'



Auction Highlights

A JS Tanner 1738 striking of the Cromwell 1658 silver Shilling was amongst the highlights at the recent Dix Noonan Webb coin auction. This extremely rare piece was produced in the eighteenth century probably to satisfy demand from influential collectors of the day. The example, estimated at £6,000 to £8,000, was in extremely fine and toned condition.



SOLD FOR £20,000

The recent sale at Baldwin's featured an Edward III, Gros aux Trois Fleurs De Lis, cross patte with the 'fleur de lis' in two opposing



angles, and with twin concentric legends both sides. The reverse featured a castle with annulet top towers, fleur de lis inside, leopard below. The coin was estimated to sell for up to £100 but easily exceeded expectations.

SOLD FOR £1,150

A single owner coin collection comprising over 500 lots went under the hammer recently at Special Auction Services in Newbury. The top lot was a 2010 Limited Edition 313g St George and the Dragon masterpiece number 9 of 25 which sold for £8,850. The auction included coins from the reigns of Charles I, Charles II, Edward VII, George I and George II as well as William and Mary and they proved popular amongst collectors.



A rare Edward VII Gold & Silver Specimen thirteen piece Coin Set (1902) comprising gold £5, £2, Full and Half sovereigns, and Silver crown, half crown, florin, shilling and six pence, and four coin Maundy set sold for £3,658, while a collection of eighteen cased George V full sovereigns realised £3,540. A run of five Edward VII full sovereigns, dated 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1910 were also sold for £1,062.

Other highlights included a Royal Mint UK 50p Gold Proof Collection set, celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the fifty pence piece, comprising sixteen 22ct gold proof coins with various designs (£6,136) and a Royal Mint Countdown to London 2012 Olympics Four £5 Gold Proof coin set, comprising a 2009, 2010, 2011 and a 2012 coin with certificates (£3,776).

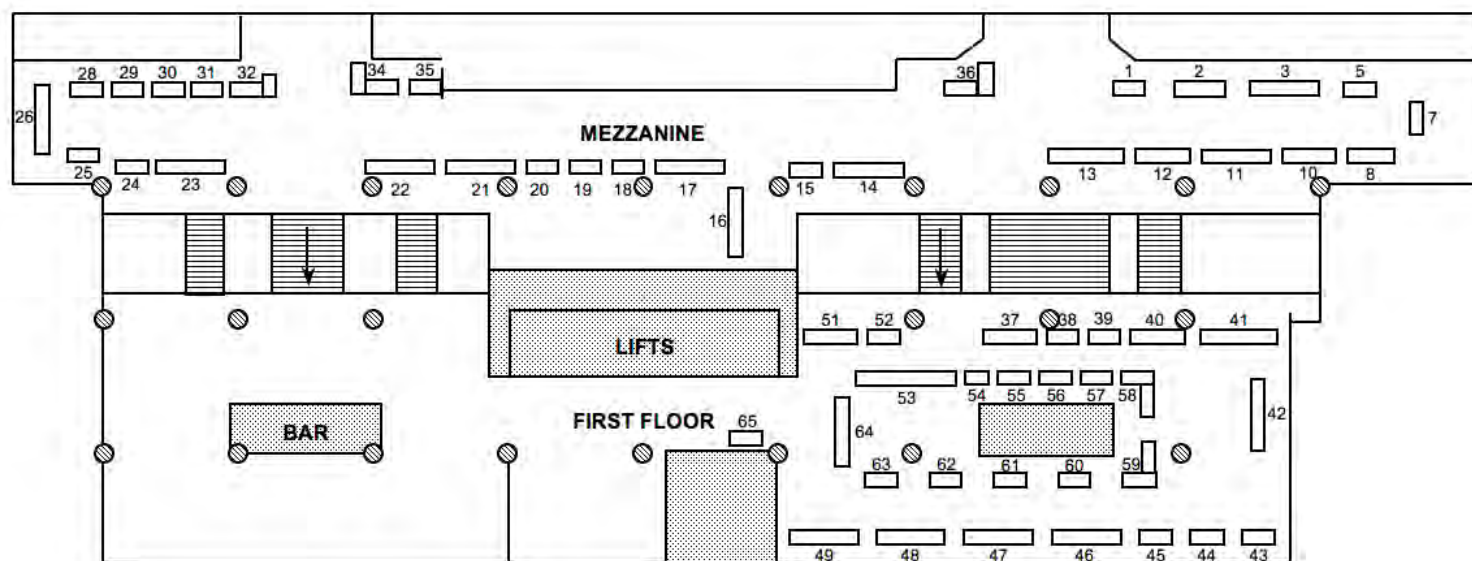
SOLD FOR £8,850

York Coin Fair – Summer 2015

Your quick reference guide to the York Stamp & Coin Fair

Friday 17th July (11am - 6pm), Saturday 18th July (10am - 4pm)
The Racecourse, York, YO21 1EX

First Floor - Coin and banknote dealers
 (turn to page 80 for stamp dealers)



A.H. Baldwin Ltd	51	Hookmoor Ancient Coins	28	Paul Revell	45
AMR Coins	52	Ian Gradon	10	Peter Morris	34
Anthony Halse	48	Jan Ruijs	41	Richard Gladdle	20
B. Frank & Son	42	John Cummings	58	Rick Coleman	60
Bedrock Collectables Ltd	7	John Newman	61	Saltford Coins	11
Bill Seese	29	KB Coins	14	Scot Mint	59
Bonhams	38	Knightsbridge Coins	39	Silbury Coins	21
British Banking History Society	65	Lindum Colonia	31	Simon Monks	15
Bucks Coins	8	Lloyd Bennett	47	Spink & Son Ltd	49
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Ernie Brooks	2	Pam West	17	Yorkshire Numismatic Society	63
GM Coins	30	Paul Davies	13		

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Greece 2015 Archimedes gold coin €200
UNC with box and certificate



SOLD FOR £343

Belgium 5 francs 'Leopold I lauré'
1834 silver coin



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France Lorraine County of Bar Henri IV 1336-
1344 'Gros à la couronne' silver coin rare!



SOLD FOR £976

France 'Louis d'or au soleil' Louis XIV 1790
A Paris gold coin



SOLD FOR £1,430

French Indochina Bank 5 piastres Printer's Essay



SOLD FOR £189

Bahamas \$100 2000 banknote



SOLD FOR £505

Central Bank of Mali 10,000 francs 1970-73 banknote



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Coins on a budget

This month's bargain coin was purchased from a dealer for £5, writes Ed Archer. It is an Indo Parthian base silver Tetradrachm of Sasan, a ruler in Northern Pakistan at the town of Taxila. Sasan ruled this part of the world between 33-55 AD and was a contemporary of the Roman Emperor Claudius. He was a Scythian tribal ruler who owed his allegiance to the Parthians from Iran. The Parthians had taken this part of the world, Bactria, from the Greeks.

The obverse shows King Sasan on horseback holding a whip. Next to the horse is the symbol of the Parthian king Gondophares. By the time the coin was struck, Gondophares was dead but his symbol was put on the coins as a sign of respect.

On the reverse side of the coin is Zeus offering a sacrifice at an altar. Zeus is found on many Indo-Parthian coins; his presence illustrating the strong Greek influence. The other point of interest on the reverse of the coin is the debased Greek lettering which was used in a local language called 'Kharosthi'. The inscription reads 'the great king and saviour, protected by the Gods, Gondophares, struck by his servant Sasan.'

Coins of the Napoleonic Wars

In the first of a three-part series, Ed Archer details the coins of Napoleon and his family, explaining how the French Emperor's seemingly haphazard march across Europe actually brought about many stable and longstanding currencies

As readers will no doubt be aware following the Waterloo medal gift given away with July's *Stamp & Coin Mart*, this year which marks the 200th anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, and while he ultimately lost that famous conflict, it is appropriate to commemorate Napoleon Bonaparte's influence on Europe's economic history. Indeed, it can be said that his contribution towards the idea of a unified European Economic system was probably the most momentous between the Roman Empire and the introduction of the Euro.

It might seem surprising that Napoleon Bonaparte should be so interested in a strong French Franc but he started his military career in a period of chaos. Well versed in mathematics, science and classical history, Napoleon was a Corsican by birth, born in 1768, the same year Louis XV purchased Corsica from Genoa.

Living through the French

Portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte

Right: a demi franc minted in Paris with the signature by Tiolier under Napoleon's bust

A rather rare metal assignat of the period prior to Napoleon's consulship

Below; an example of an Assignat – people were keen to see the back of these when Napoleon reformed the currency



Revolutionary period and the financial disasters that followed the collapse of the Bourbon Government in 1789, he was only too aware of the financial difficulties under which France laboured. A raft of economic experiments followed after France was declared a Republic in 1793. France became the second country in the world to have a decimal currency; at first decimes were issued, ten to the franc, then centimes of which there were 100 to the franc. The franc was in silver and the decimes / centimes in copper. However, Revolutionary France was plunged into economic chaos and this copper and silver coinage was soon replaced by paper promissory notes and medals called 'Assignats'. These rapidly became worthless resulting in much social unrest.

It was into this economic maelstrom that Napoleon stepped as the First Consul in 1799. Realising that something must be done to secure financial stability Napoleon oversaw the foundation of a

National Bank for France 'Banque de France', which still exists today.

Once the banking sector was sorted out, the next move was the creation of a sensible currency based on copper, silver and gold in 1803. It is at this stage that Napoleon's portrait appears on French coinage, since he had been declared Consul for life the year before. On the coins Napoleon is shown bare headed in the Roman manner with the words *Republique Francaise* around his bust. The silver coins of this era were designed by Benet and Tiolier; the gold were designed by Tiolier and Droz.

The Republican message gradually vanished as Napoleon elevated himself from Consul to Emperor, the reverse of the coins initially referring to the French Republic until 1807 when the 'French Empire' was preferred. By that time Napoleon had effective control over most of Spain, Italy and Sicily, much of what is now Croatia, a large part of Germany, all of Holland and Belgium, Switzerland, and the Baltic states.

By 1812 under Napoleon's leadership France reached the height of its economic power with much of Western Russia under French control. But the retreat from Moscow prompted a downward spiral and the gradual collapse of Napoleon's authority. Yet the French currency still remained stable. Indeed the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy in the shape of Louis XVIII did not alter the financial system put in place by Napoleon Bonaparte; an amazing legacy in itself.

Napoleon's mints

The coins issued by Napoleon were struck in denominations of $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 5 francs in silver as well as 20 and 40 francs in gold. These were struck at nine different mints across France as well as in Turin, Utrecht, Geneva and Rome. Those Napoleonic coins struck outside France are relatively rare. Some bearing his portrait were struck in the native currency, for example the 20 lira coin from Genoa of 1800 following Napoleon's victories in northern Italy.

All mints have a different code of which the best known is the capital 'A' for Paris, the vast majority of coins being struck there.

The designers of Napoleon's coins

The gold 20 France pieces are probably the best designed of the coins issued for Napoleon. The chief designer was Jean Pierre Droz who spent some time studying the art of striking coins at Matthew Boulton's Soho mint at Birmingham prior to 1799. He was to work continually throughout Napoleon's reign.

Perhaps more well known is the chief engraver Joseph Tiolier, whose work embraced both the gold and silver coins. Evidence of his work can be seen in two ways – either the full signature or a personal monogram. Tiolier's

From left: a portrait of Napoleon as first consul on the obverse of a five franc piece of 1800; obverse of a twenty franc piece of Napoleon of 1812



work was held in such high esteem that he was kept on as France's chief mint master after the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy.

Napoleon's wider influence

Italy was the first area that Napoleon annexed for France. Piedmont/ Savoy was conquered in 1800 and then made part of France in 1806. Similarly the kingdom of Etruria (modern day Tuscany) was also incorporated into France in 1807. The Papal States followed in 1809 and at this stage a mint was established to issue French Francs in Rome for all the Italian territories under France.

Further south the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily followed a different track, issuing its own coinage based on the tornesi and carlini during the rule of Joseph Bonaparte. However, all this changed under Marshal Murat who married Napoleon's sister Caroline; he introduced a decimal system for the coinage of Naples and Sicily, one hundred Centesmi to the Lira.

In Switzerland, which fell under French control as far back as 1798, a unified currency of rappen and batzen was permitted with ten batzen to the Franc. All members of the Swiss Confederation had to follow this decimal system. Indeed today's Swiss Franc owes its origins to the Napoleonic period.

Control of Holland was passed on to Napoleon's brother Louis in 1806 who respected the existing Dutch currency. He issued stuivers, gulden and rijksdaaler in silver as well as 10 and 20 gulden pieces in gold.

In Germany, Napoleon installed another member of his family, Jerome, as King of Westphalia – an assortment of states bordering the Rhine which were joined together to form this kingdom whose capital was Kassel. In its brief existence from 1806 until 1813, coins for Jerome were struck for both the French and German standard currencies, in Francs and Thalers.

Finally there is Spain. Initially Spain was allied to France but gradually the alliance fell apart resulting in a takeover of Spain with the tacit agreement of Charles VI and his son Ferdinand VII. Napoleon's brother Joseph became king of Spain in 1808 but he did not have complete control over the country, with southern regions recognising Ferdinand VII and continuing to strike coins for him. This battle for control provides today's numismatists with plenty of scope to collect and study Spanish coins of this period.

Joseph I issued a series of silver pesetas and reales, the eight reales being the same size as the silver five franc piece. The gold coins were 2 and 8 escudos with Joseph's portrait on the reverse. On the obverse was the Spanish coat of arms with the French Imperial Eagle added.

Napoleon and his family made significant changes to the currencies of the countries that they ruled. Many of these reforms outlived their reigns, bringing about stable currencies. Nowhere, however, was this change more long lasting than in France which was brought out of the mire of economic chaos as a result of his reforms.

From left: the obverse of a 50 reales piece of Joseph Bonaparte; the reverse of the fifty reales piece of Joseph Bonaparte. Notice the French eagle in the middle; obverse of a ten gulden piece of Louis of Holland





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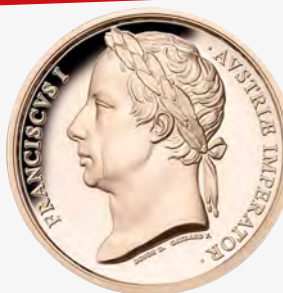
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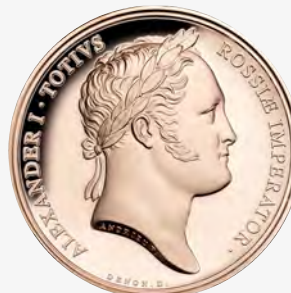
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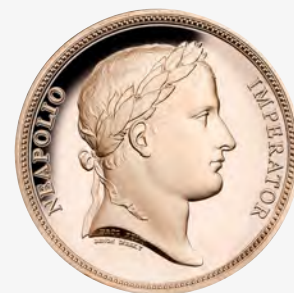
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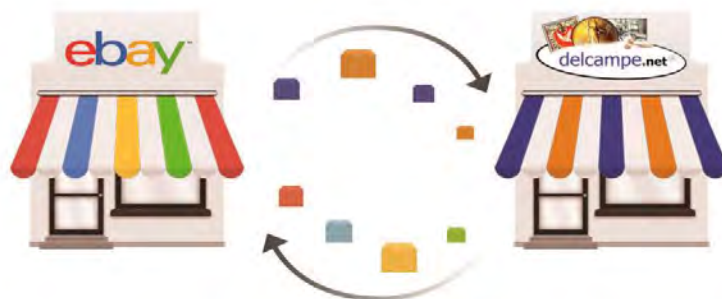
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Roman gold in Britain

Ed Fletcher concludes his account of the Empire's money in the Roman province of Britannia with a look at its most precious denominations

An incident in my life I'm not likely to forget occurred in 1992 when I helped out at Treasure World's London premises during a hectic sales period. One of the customers that day was a matronly lady from Suffolk who came in to buy a gift for her husband who was about to retire from his gardening job after fifty years service. She chose a lightweight Tesoro Silver Sabre metal detector, and I recall her comment as she left the shop: 'I hope he finds something with this that will take his mind off not having to get up and go to work.'

A few days later, as her husband walked home after trying out his new detector and discovering a Georgian penny, a local farmer drew up in his tractor and said: 'I've just lost a hammer from the tractor's tool box while ploughing. The back wheels must have run over it and pressed it into the soil. If you can locate it with that gadget of yours you can search the rest of the field.'

The retiree obliged, crossed the road, stepped into the field, switched on his Silver Sabre, and immediately heard a loud signal in his headphones. Thinking he had located the lost hammer, he scooped up a trowel-full of soil... and stared in utter disbelief at gold coins... dozens of them... then hundreds as he scooped up more soil. He had found the Hoxne Treasure, a huge hoard of Roman wealth which included 579 gold solidi. To this day it remains the largest accumulation of Roman gold coins to come to light in Britain.

Like the 14,565 silver siliquae that also formed part of the Hoxne

Aureus issued in Rome by Julius Caesar circa 44 BC. The bust depicts Venus because Caesar dared not risk the anger of the Senate by using his own portrait on money. The wreath on the reverse does however celebrate his military victory. In 1839 during construction of the Bristol & Exeter Railway a number of Roman Republican gold coins were dug up, including one of Julius Caesar very similar to this example

Claudius reigned as Emperor from AD 41 to AD 54. He issued aurei to his army commanders following their successful invasion of southern Britannia in AD 43

This aureus of Nero was struck in Rome in AD 65- AD 66. Although he preferred the comforts of Rome to the battlefield, Nero sent several legionary expeditions to Britannia



hoard, the gold solidi dated from the late 4th and early 5th centuries and had emanated from mints in the western provinces during the reigns of Theodosius I, Arcadius and Honorius. Most of the few gold coins shipped to Britain around that time were struck at Trier, Milan, Rome and Ravenna; or at travelling mints that accompanied some emperors during their progressions around their empires. Almost all carried a stylized obverse portrait of the reigning emperor with a diademed crown as a symbol of his imperial authority. He was usually shown wearing a cuirass (armoured breastplate) and a cloak to signify his rank; and surrounded by an obverse legend that spelled out his name and his titles. Although reverses exhibited greater variety, the majority depicted or personified some aspect of the emperor's military successes. The goddess Victory often occupied part of the reverse; sometimes flying above a second image of the emperor, who was occasionally shown accompanied by a joint ruler. Some reverse images included captives, bound and lying prostrate at the feet of the victorious ruler.

Gold coins like those just described circulated in greatest number around the Roman Empire's borders. They were used to pay loyal and successful military commanders who repelled (or deterred) incursions by barbarian tribes. Rank-and-file foot soldiers rarely, if ever, encountered a gold solidus; they and most civilians living around military forts and encampments used bronze and some silver coins for their everyday purchases and pleasures. A few civilian landowners, great farmers, dealers in metals and slaves; as well as senior administrators, would have been familiar with gold coins, and keen to lay hands on them as ideal coins for use in savings hoards because the solidi issued during the Empire's later centuries were of good weight and purity. Recent evidence revealed by professional numismatists who have studied the gold coins in the Hoxne hoard indicates they were received by the hoard's owner directly from at least two reigning emperors. Imperial practice at that time included the issuing of donatives (gifts) to mark the beginnings of reigns, as well as five and ten-year anniversaries.





Vespasian ruled from AD 69 to AD 79. On this aureus he depicted a personification of Pax to celebrate a period of peace throughout the Empire

The land we call Suffolk today was not within a military zone in Britannia in the late 4th century, so it seems probably that the coins (and the accumulated precious metal artefacts in the rest of the hoard) were owned by a rich and well-connected Romano-British civilian, perhaps in possession of a vast agricultural holding on what was then (and now) among the most fertile soil in the Roman province. Historical records from the 18th century indicate spikes in numbers of Roman gold coins found in Britain at a time when new agricultural practices, including deeper ploughing, were being introduced on lowland farms. Significantly, the farmer who asked the detectorist to search for a lost hammer had just deep ploughed the field in preparation for a sugar beet crop.

Some three and a half centuries before the Hoxne hoard went into the ground, the emperor Claudius invaded Britannia with 40,000 soldiers. The standard gold coin at that time (AD 43) was the aureus, first struck in the Republican era, notably by Julius Caesar who issued large numbers to pay his loyal legions in 46 BC. In the Imperial era almost all emperors issued aurei and maintained their purity despite inflation by gradually reducing size and weight until AD 309 when Constantine the Great replaced the aureus with the solidus.

Claudius could afford a display of generosity to his army officers during the Britannia invasion because he had recently received gifts of gold bullion amounting to 16,000 pounds in weight from grateful gold mine operators in Hispania (modern Spain). The emperor struck thousands of aurei, many of them travelling northward and westward across the new province with the centurions and higher ranking officers

who received them from their supreme commander. With few opportunities to spend such high denomination coins (an aureus was valued at 100 bronze sestertii, or 25 silver denarii at that time) many must have gone into personal savings, perhaps with a view to buying a farm on retirement. A record of just how few gold coins were in daily use throughout the Empire was provided by the sudden eruption of Mount Vesuvius about thirty years after the conquest of Britannia began. The catastrophe buried the nearby town of Pompeii beneath a blanket of volcanic dust in a few hours, providing modern excavators with an accurate record of everyday objects, including coins, carried by the citizens of a Roman town in AD79. Money found in the clothing of victims consisted of 48 percent silver denarii; 48 percent bronze small change; and four percent gold aurei.

During the 1st, 2nd and 3rd centuries, when pagan religions were enthusiastically practiced across the Empire, gold's reputation as a regal, even sacred metal meant that it was frequently used as an offering to the gods. Ceremonies often involved burying golden offerings a few inches beneath the ground in the vicinities of shrines. A gold aureus made an ideal donation to the shrine for those who could afford the extravagance. Many single gold coins recovered by modern detectorists probably found their way into the ground in that way. When the Roman legions departed our island and the Anglo-Saxons began to settle and farm the land, they regularly turned up single gold Roman coins and found a new use for them by soldering on hooks and chains and wearing the aurei and solidi as jewellery.



This aureus of Domitian was issued in AD 88 to celebrate victory over German tribes on the Rhine border. The reverse shows Germania in mourning, with a broken spear below. This rare coin sold in a TimeLine Auction for £4,600 in 2010



Hadrian, the emperor whose name attaches to the Empire's most famous defensive wall, struck this gold aureus circa AD 119-AD 125, about the time he visited Britannia and gave orders for the great wall to commence construction. Army officers involved in the project probably received such coins as gifts or payments



Emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138-AD 161) decided to push the boundary further north by ordering the construction of a turf wall between the Clyde and the Forth. His barrier was garrisoned for 25 years before the army fell back to Hadrian's Wall and strengthened it with stone turrets and towers. Nevertheless, examples of Antoninus Pius aurei have come to light in Scotland and England



This aureus of Lucius Verus depicts him with his co-emperor Marcus Aurelius on the reverse. The coin was struck in AD 161 and sold in a TimeLine 2014 auction for almost £3,400

At the crossroads of Asia: Bactrian coins

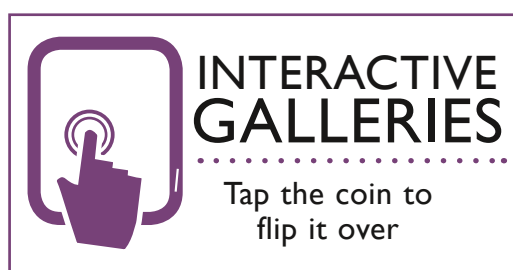
Coins are one of the key sources of evidence for reconstructing the history of regions or periods for which we have few other legitimate data, writes Richard Keller, as he profiles a fascinating Indo-Greek coin

Numismatic evidence has been vital in providing the framework for the Greek and barbarian kingdoms that flourished in this part of the world following the death of Alexander the Great. In this month's feature on the collection of the British Museum we focus on an ancient coin that embodies the fusion of elements from distinctive cultures and which comes from one of the great Eurasian meeting points.

The coin was collected by the explorer, archaeologist, numismatist, and intelligence agent Charles Masson. He was employed from 1833-38 by the British East India Company, Bombay Government, to excavate and record finds in south-east Afghanistan, during which time he collected an estimated 60,000 coins and excavated some fifty sites in the Kabul-Jalalabad region.

The Bactrian kingdom (about 200-145 BC) was situated in modern Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, at the intersection of the ancient trade routes which linked the Iranian plateau to Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean, to Central Asia and China in the north east and the Indian sub-continent in the south east. The earliest historical evidence from the region comes from the Achaemenid Empire (known in the west as the Persian Empire of Darius and Xerxes). With Alexander the Great's conquest of the Achaemenid lands between 329 and 325 BC, the area fell under Greek control. From 200 BC the kingdom extended its control south of the Hindu Kush into Gandhara (modern Pakistan). By around 130 BC the Greeks had lost control of Bactria, but their cultural impact would be felt for a much longer time, as it became fused with local traditions. There are few sources in which this is better reflected than in the coinage.

The bronze coin we are considering here was minted in Begram in modern Afghanistan (about 60km north of



The piece is one of the earliest examples of bilingual Indo-Greek coin, featuring Greek on the reverse and an Indian script on the obverse

Kabul) in about 190-180 BC. The town was captured and fortified as a colony by Alexander the Great and renamed, like so many of his foundations, Alexandria (of the Caucasus); in the medieval period it was known as Kapisa. The king named on this coin is Agathocles, king of Bactria between 190 and 180 BC and in fact very little is known about him beyond the large issue of coinage in his name. He was keen to use coinage as a medium for conveying certain messages, such as his right to rule and religious leanings. Other coins issued by Agathocles to emphasise his rightful claim to the throne depict Alexander the Great (336-323 BC), the Seleucid king Antiochus II (reigned around 266-246 BC), Diodotus Soter, the first independent king of Bactria in around 240 BC, and the later Greco-Bactrian king, Euthydemus I (reigned around 230-200 BC).

As a result of the extension of Bactrian influence into India the design of the kingdom's coinage adopted cultural elements of the new areas. On the coins intended for circulation south of the Hindu Kush, Indian deities and typical Indian images such as elephants and humped bulls, were often used. This bronze coin depicts the Indian goddess Subhadra (Krishna's sister)

stepping to the left, wearing oriental dress and holding a flower and also loosely imitates the conventional square shape of Indian coins. The reverse has the more traditional Greek image of a panther and a legend in Greek, 'Basileos Agathokleous' ('of King Agathocles'). Of more significance is the fact that this was the earliest bilingual Indo-Greek coin issued. The obverse (front) carries an Indian translation of the same legend in Prakrit (the local language of north-western India) reading 'Rajane Agathuklayasa'. It is written in Brahmi, one of the earliest Indian scripts, which was first deciphered in the 1830s. The realisation that the legends on Indo-Greek coins were bilingual led to the decipherment of another ancient Indian script, Kharoshthi, which was adopted instead of Brahmi for all the issues of Agathocles' successors.



E. Errington and J. Cribb (eds.), *The Crossroads of Asia: transformation in image and symbol in the art of ancient Afghanistan and Pakistan* (Cambridge, Ancient India and Iran Trust, 1992)

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A train called Molli

In his ongoing quest for unusual stamps Christer Brunström takes a journey on the German railways and discovers a locomotive with an intriguing story to tell

At one of the bigger German rail stations I recently studied the different magazines on display in one of the shops. To my amazement and incredulity there were no less than sixty different titles devoted to locomotives, trains and everything else associated with railways.

A further search revealed three stamp magazines for sale. Simply stated it seems that in Germany the interest in trains is twenty times bigger than in philately. Or perhaps train buffs are far more willing to spend money to find information on their favourite hobby than stamp collectors are.

One of many favourite railway lines is strangely enough called Molli. This narrow gauge (900 millimetres) line links Bad Doberan with Kühlungsborn West on the Baltic coast of Germany. Exactly as in 1886, when the railway was inaugurated, steam engines are being used today to pull the trains. During the summer season there is an hourly daytime service in each direction (during the winter season every other hour).

In the town of Bad Doberan the train travels right through the main street where there are two stops. The line is 15.4 kilometres in length and



A brand new steam locomotive (992324-4) was delivered in 2009. It was the first steam locomotive built in Germany for sixty years. The other locomotives date back to the early 1930s. Many of the carriages are more than 100 years old but still in very good shape. In 2011 the line celebrated its 125th anniversary. Deutsche Post issued a 45c commemorative stamp. As this was the postcard rate it must have been extremely popular with tourists

the journey takes some 45 minutes, no doubt many of the passengers would like the trip to last even longer.

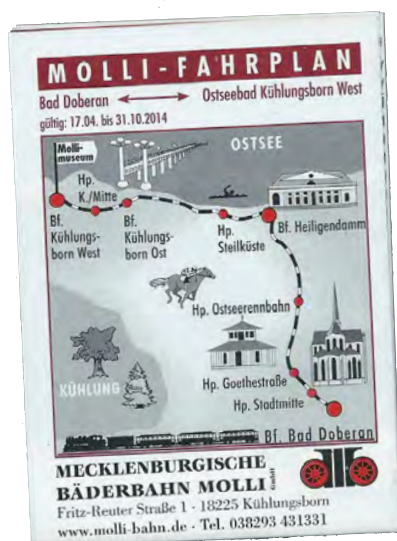
The story behind this little railway is quite fascinating. At the end of the 19th century people began to discover the pleasures of swimming in the sea. In Heiligendamm, by Bad Doberan, a large sea bath was built. The new resort included hotels, restaurants and other facilities.

The Dukes of Mecklenburg moved from their palace in Schwerin to their home in Bad Doberan during the hot summer season. They built large guest houses where royalty from abroad could be housed. The small town had a theatre and a horse racing course to entertain the holiday makers.

However, the distance from Bad Doberan to Heiligendamm was more than five kilometres and in order

to facilitate travel to the sea it was decided to build a narrow gauge railway. It was ready in 1886 and it covered a distance of 6.6 kilometres. At first steam powered trams were used. One of the original goods wagons still exists and can be seen at the Kühlungsborn West station. This wagon also served as a kind of travelling post office as letters could be posted in a letterbox.

In 1890 the line was nationalised and in 1910 it was extended to Kühlungsborn West. When Deutsche Bahn decided in 1995 that the line was no longer commercially viable it was taken over by the municipality of Bad Doberan and it changed its name to Mecklenburgische Bäderbahn Molli.



What can be included in a Molli collection? A timetable is, of course, always useful as is one of the old-time tickets



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